

Her mother was a Lesbian.
Her father, too. David Bianco on Sappho,
the most famous resident of Lesbos.

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Pointed protest in DC
over ban on federal funds
for needle exchange.

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Whitewash
Edmund White on
'The Farewell Symphony.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 39 • 25 September 1997

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

SF GETS WRAPPED UP IN LEATHER THIS WEEK...

by Mister Marcus

It's no surprise that leather people around the world often refer to San Francisco as Mecca. Besides the strong leather community that exists here, the Folsom Street Fair is considered to be the world's largest leather party - beyond International Mr. Leather in Chicago, beyond Leather Decadence in New Orleans, beyond Leatherfest in San Diego and every leather fest throughout the world.

Several years ago, the powers at Desmond Inc., publisher of *Drummer* magazine, wisely decided to stage their annual contest on the night before the fair. Since then, hundreds of leather/levi/uniform/latex and SM events have sprouted, making the entire week a cornucopia of fun for the gay/lesbian community's least understood subculture.

Besides mammoth leather-oriented disco parties, artists, photographers, and other fine arts mavens have staged showings, auctions, and party happenings for the myriad visitors who come together *en masse* to participate in an extravaganza that draws close to a half-million people. The sheer number of participants and observers rivals attendance at the Pasadena Rose Bowl and the Chinese New Year celebration.

And although those two big events have not always enjoyed the best weather, the Folsom Street Fair, now in its 14th year, has always been blessed with glorious warmth and sunlight. To date, it has

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Cuir queers: The annual Leather Walk kicked off Leather Pride Week festivities Sept. 21 with a march from Daddy's to the Eagle. The event raised \$9,815.25 for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Mister Marcus

...AND THERE'S PLENTY OF LATEX, TOO!

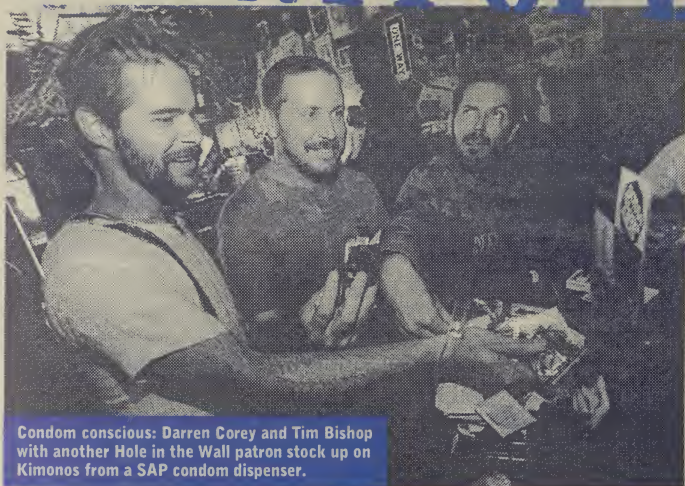
by Cynthia Laird

One year after the *Bay Area Reporter* reported on the surprising lack of condoms at the 1996 Folsom Street Fair, a distribution program has been put into place to provide rubbers at predominantly gay bars and clubs year-round. The Stop AIDS Project (SAP) has officially launched the program, called Condoms Now!, so fairgoers should find the containers in virtually all South of Market bars when they take to the streets this weekend.

Steven Gibson, community organizer with SAP, told the *B.A.R.* that 54 bars and 13 retail shops throughout the city are participating in the program. "Beginning this week, gay and bisexual men in San Francisco will have easier access to free condoms than ever before. This long-overdue program is the result of community organizers and grassroots activists who have worked tirelessly to make this issue a priority on the public health agenda."

SAP staff members and volunteers are making final visits this week to more than 60 businesses to deliver the Kimono condoms and snazzy containers. Kimono condoms are very popular with gay and bisexual men; the East Bay company was the successful bidder and even dropped its price to match

page 35 ►



Condom conscious: Darren Corey and Tim Bishop with another Hole in the Wall patron stock up on Kimonos from a SAP condom dispenser.

Rick Gerhardt

CLINTON TO ATTEND GAY DINNER

United Press International

White House spokesperson Mike McCurry announced Tuesday, September 23 that President Clinton will address a dinner later this year of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization.

The group's leadership said the November 8 dinner in Washington will mark the

first time a sitting president has participated at a gay and lesbian civil rights event.

Actress Ellen DeGeneres and her partner, Anne Heche, will also be attending the event, where DeGeneres will also be accepting an HRC National Civil Rights Award for her historic and very public coming out last spring.

The dinner will be attended by 1,500 guests. According to HRC, it is already sold out. ▼



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Picture perfect



Ursula, Miss Venezuela, was crowned Miss Gay Universe '97 Sept. 20 at the Palace of Fine Arts. Here she receives a brief touch-up from her adoring attendants before meeting her public. This year's pageant benefited the Filipino Task Force on AIDS.

Rick Gehlert

Scandalous Headlines

Castro retailer hit with HIV discrimination suit

by Dennis Conkin

A former executive with the San Francisco-based retailer Headlines filed a million dollar HIV discrimination and breach of contract lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court against

the chain on Wednesday, September 24. The popular local merchandiser has two retail outlets on Castro Street.

The four-count civil lawsuit was filed by former executive vice president Tom Finan, and names the corporation that does business as Headlines and Edward Litke, the company's current president. It alleges violation of public policy and intentional infliction of emotional distress, in addition to HIV discrimination.

Finan, a 14-year Headlines employee, was terminated by Litke on April 24, 1996, the last day of a four-month disability leave and one day before he was scheduled to return to work, according to attorney Geoff Kors of The Law Offices of Paul Wotman.

The complaint also alleges that after Litke became president of the company and learned Finan had HIV, he began to avoid the employee — and even refused to shake Finan's hand.

Litke also allegedly began discussing terminating Finan, and told other employees that he did not want someone with HIV running the company or working in a visible position, according to the Superior Court complaint.

"It's mind-boggling to think that a president of a company with stores in the Castro would refuse to shake the hand of a management employee after learning that he had HIV, as alleged in the complaint," Kors told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "My client's whole adult worklife was at Headlines. He was Headlines."

A worsening problem?

The complaint alleges that several weeks after Finan went on medical disability leave in January 1996, he was formally notified that his position as executive vice president had been eliminated, but was told he could return to work in a different position and run the company's design and visual marketing aspects.

However, the civil suit also claims that although Finan was eliminated, Litke offered the position to other Headlines employees.

And, just one working day be-

fore he was going to start the new job in April 1996, the complaint alleges, Headlines sent Finan a letter telling him that his position with the company had been eliminated and that he was no longer employed.

According to Kors, Finan had been previously assured in 1987 by former Headlines owner Andy Kramer that the company would accommodate his HIV condition, and that he shouldn't worry about his job if he needed to reduce his hours or take medical leave because he would always have a position with Headlines.

According to Kors, HIV discrimination is a "serious problem" in the American workplace. He fears it may grow worse as people with HIV gain improved health because of new AIDS treatments — but find that their employers don't really want them to return to work from disability leaves.

"But, at the very least, you don't expect to see this in San Francisco, and you certainly don't expect to see it in a business that caters to the lesbian and gay community and makes a large percentage of their profits from the community," Kors said.

Finan began working for Headlines in 1982 as an assistant manager at its old 549 Castro Street location, and rose through the ranks of the company.

As a 20-year-old gay Kansas transplant, Finan said that he managed operations, chose merchandise, and developed the concept of Headlines, with Kramer as the financial mentor.

Finan said that he and Kramer had hoped to take the business enterprise nationwide. Currently, the business has several retail outlets in San Francisco, plus one Seattle outlet.

The trauma and stress of the situation have taken their toll, Finan said.

"I've had nightmares and nightsweats. I understand what it must feel like to be raped," he said.

Headlines and Litke are represented by the law firm of Jackson Lewis Schnitzler and Krupman, which did not return *Bay Area Reporter* calls for comment on the civil litigation. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SFPD seize medical marijuana plants, hold grower overnight

Unfortunate PWA lives next to retired judge

by Cynthia Laird

Victor Thomas "Tom" Evans, a man with AIDS who grew marijuana for medical use by himself and one of the local buyers clubs, was arrested by San Francisco police Monday, September 22. About 50 marijuana plants were seized, and Evans was held overnight at the San Francisco County Jail before being released on his own recognizance Tuesday, September 23. District Attorney Terence Hallinan has not yet decided whether or not to prosecute Evans, whom friends said lives next door to a retired federal judge.

The raid was the largest medical marijuana bust by the SFPD since California voters passed Proposition 215, legalizing cannabis for medical use, last November. However, it is not the only one; San Francisco resident Donald Crisp had seven plants seized on a Tuesday, September 16 raid of his house. Unconfirmed sources have told the *Bay Area Reporter* that police officers may have posed as workman to enter his home earlier that day to confirm he was growing the marijuana. Crisp, who is blind in one eye, was handcuffed at the scene, but

was released without citation.

Members of the Cannabis Cultivators Club demonstrated their unhappiness with the police action by marching into Chief Fred Lau's office Tuesday afternoon carrying a marijuana plant. Club owner Dennis Peron told the B.A.R. that police refused to arrest the protesters.

Gary Johnson, a medical marijuana advocate, told the B.A.R. that Evans, a gay man living with AIDS, is a volunteer at Flower Therapy, which itself was raided by federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents earlier this year. No charges have been filed as a result of that raid.

'Exceeded the spirit'

Police raided Evans's Mt. Davidson-area home after receiving a tip from a concerned citizen. Assistant District Attorney Vernon Griggs then authorized a search warrant. John Shanley, Hallinan's spokesman, told the B.A.R. that Griggs "had no way of knowing" that Evans was an AIDS patient or that he was affiliated with a medical marijuana club when he signed the search warrant. Griggs received the tip "from a very reliable source," Shanley said.

In addition to the pot plants,

police seized about \$16,000 in cash; Johnson and Peron said the money was from Evans's sale of his life insurance policy.

Shanley said that Hallinan personally requested Evans be released from jail after he was called at home by medical marijuana advocates.

In a statement, police said the marijuana items at Evans's home "far exceeded the spirit of the medicinal marijuana law."

Said Johnson in a letter he sent to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, "Mr. Evans is an upstanding young man who is more ill than I, and there was no intent to put this medical marijuana on the street - rather, it was for sick people." ▼



CCC members marched to Chief Lau's office to protest recent arrests of medical marijuana growers.

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SCOTT A. GURSKY
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Transgenders and sex workers tell Police Commission of harassment

by Liz Highleyman

On Wednesday, September 17, the San Francisco Police Commission heard public testimony about the city's police force's alleged harassment of sex workers. Testimony was provided by sex workers, HIV/AIDS prevention and service providers, and non-prostitutes presumed to be sex workers.

The hearing was initiated by the Bay Area Sex Worker Advocacy Network (BAYSWAN). Carol Leigh of BAYSWAN spoke of the recent increase in harassment of street sex workers, which includes "forced sex, physical violence, verbal abuse, and illegal arrests." Leigh told the *Bay Area Reporter* that a new rash of incidents of police misconduct occurs every few months.

Kiki Whitlock of the Asian/Pacific Islander Wellness Center stated that transgender women are especially prone to police harassment, often receiving citations for minor, non-prostitution-related infractions such as jay-walking. One transgendered Laotian client of the agency related that she was arrested for prostitution after engaging in unpaid sex with an undercover vice cop she thought was "cute." Wellness Center staff member Dawn Passar said that immigrant and non-English-speaking women are particularly targeted for harassment.

Nashanta Stanley, of the Department of Public Health's Transgender Community Health Project, discussed police harass-

ment of outreach workers. She said she had been targeted by police as a prostitute while doing street outreach, including distribution of condoms and educational materials. Tamara Ching, a transgender community advocate, related that she had been "verbally battered" by police for attempting to aid two transgendered women wrongly being arrested for prostitution.

A woman from the Mission brought an envelope full of tickets she had received from police for, she said, simply walking around in the area. A woman visiting from Spain - who is not a sex worker - was stopped and thrown against a wall by police in the Tenderloin. The woman said she had asked the Spanish embassy to become involved.

Police chief Fred Lau offered to meet with sex workers and members of the transgendered community to discuss the issues brought forward at the hearing. Lau suggested the possibility of police sensitivity training.

Leigh's group has been working with Mary Dunlap of the Office of Citizen Complaints in an attempt to reduce police harassment. However, Leigh said that the current model of citizen's review "is not accessible and is ineffective for the most marginalized populations." The city's Task Force on Prostitution last year recommended several measures to address police harassment of sex workers, including education, hiring an ombudsperson, and developing a procedure for anonymous grievances. ▼

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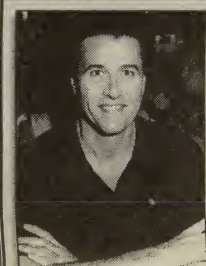
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Probation, suspended sentence over gay's anti-gay outburst

Jail time possible, but so is rehabilitation

by Dennis Conkin

A gay San Francisco man was sentenced Friday, September 19 to a one-year suspended county jail term, plus three years supervised probation, for making hate-related threats to another gay man in Lafayette Park last month.

Municipal Court Judge Charlene Padovani Mitchell also ordered James Hall to seek appropriate counseling, and to stay away from witnesses who testified against him and Scott Sprout, the victim in the case.

Hall was also ordered to spend 90 days in jail if he could not find residential substance abuse and mental health treatments for the same amount of time.

In a careful explanation of the reasons for her sentencing decision, Mitchell told Hall that he had threatened Sprout with great bodily injury and made him afraid for his life during the incident last month.

Explaining that elements of Hall's punishment included "retribution to the community" because the community was made to feel less safe as a result of his criminal behavior, as well as retribution to Sprout for his suffering, Mitchell also said that goals of punishment must also be balanced with the possibility of rehabilitation.

"In this case there are several mitigating circumstances the court has considered," Mitchell told Hall.

Those factors include Hall's sexual orientation, the fact that he apologized on the witness stand in front of the jury to Sprout, who suffered no physical injuries in the case, and what the judge called the likely "element of self-hate" plus other mental health issues involved in Hall's hate speech and threats against Sprout.

Mitchell said that the mitigating factors did not excuse Hall's criminal behavior, but were factors to be considered in "fashioning the appropriate sentence."

A bunch of child molesters

Sprout testified during the trial in Department 16 of San Francisco Municipal Court that he did not know that Hall was gay during the August 9 incident in Lafayette Park, and said in court

that he was afraid for his life after Hall said he had a knife, made viciously anti-gay comments, threatened him, and pursued him out of the park.

"I want you out of the park, you fucking faggot. I hate all you fucking faggots. You're all a bunch of child molesters. I have a knife, and I'm going to cut you up," Hall screamed at Sprout during the incident.

Sprout walked from the park to a nearby street where he encountered two men on their way to dinner and asked if he might walk with them as Hall was threatening him. According to testimony, Hall kept up his anti-gay barrage and threats of violence as he approached the trio.

Witnesses also testified Hall harassed other people in the park during the bizarre incident, which ended with his arrest when a woman who had been walking her dog called police from her cell phone.

Before Mitchell sentenced Hall, Sprout read a statement to the court in which he asked for the maximum one-year sentence, so Hall "could think about what he put me through that night." He said that he had suffered loss of

sleep and "bad dreams" in the aftermath of the attack.

Although he later shook his head bitterly as Mitchell sentenced Hall, Sprout said in his pre-sentence statement that he believed that "in this case the American justice system worked for me."

Can be rehabilitated

Assistant District Attorney Thanh Ngo told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the prosecution had recommended that Hall be placed on probation, and that evidence in the case indicated that Hall had substance abuse and psychological problems related to his sexual orientation.

"He needs to find more productive ways to express his anger," Ngo said. "Overall, we believe that he can be rehabilitated."

Ngo pointed out that Hall's probation must be supervised, and that he faces jail time if he does not comply with terms of the sentence. If a residential treatment facility cannot be found, Hall must serve the rest of the 90-day sentence in jail - with credit for the 48 days he has been in custody.

Hall was also ordered to pay \$100 to a victim's assistance fund. ▼

Regal royals



The Ducal Court coronation was held Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway on Van Ness Avenue. Pictured here are the new Grand Duke Chawn Dru Colony (left) and the new Grand Duchess Pattie Mae greeting their cheering subjects.

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OPEN FORUM

Pat and Mike

This week is the most promising Folsom Street Fair/Leather Pride week in memory, and everyone in San Francisco seems delighted to be sharing it with so many out-of-town friends. Anyone who isn't feeling convivial should get the spirit, sister, and get on up them stairs, to use a favorite line from *Lady Sings the Blues*. It's time to make some new friends.

What makes it so special this year is the city's recognition of the fact that gay men, especially congregated in large numbers, need condoms readily available. Most first-time visitors to the city probably won't be terribly surprised to find free condoms at every gay bar — well, nearly every one, and *shame on you, Martuni's* — since that's a basic tenet of fighting AIDS in most other cities. But for us in San Francisco, the gay Mecca, it's been a long and somewhat difficult process to get latex into the bars.

Interestingly, it was not the actions of any of San Francisco's giant AIDS organizations (let's call them, collectively, "AIDS, Inc.") that helped put condoms into bar patrons' hands; it was one solitary activist who did it, by complaining and refusing to stop complaining until something was done about it. That activist is Michael Petrelis, a founding member of the first ACT UP chapter and a constant thorn in the side of AIDS, Inc. Lots of people don't like Michael; sometimes even those who like him don't like him — but he does get things done.

We're not lining him up behind Mother Teresa and Princess Diana for instant sainthood or anything, but Petrelis's record does bear attention: besides pressing for condom distribution, he brought worldwide attention to the murder of gay sailor Allen Schindler, and made sure the homophobic perpetrator didn't escape punishment. He also brought attention to the inherent dishonesty of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's response to a recent client survey. When SFAF originally, grandly, publicized the survey's finding about what its clients thought of the organization, it mischaracterized the clients' perspectives. Only later, after Petrelis managed to snare a copy and brought it to the media's attention, did the truth come out.

And only then did the foundation and its executive director, Pat Christen, acknowledge that changes needed to happen, and fast. Since then the promised changes have not come to pass, but retribution against Petrelis has.

Christen, in her capacity as leader of a bloated organization that she apparently sees as both an immovable object and an irresistible force, has bullied two other organizations into cutting off client services to Petrelis. As Cynthia Laird reports on page 32, nobody even bothered to hold a hearing before driving this totally unacceptable wedge between a PWA and his HIV services. Christen seems to consider herself too mighty, and her rage too superlative, to let judicial principles stand in her way, even if they have been the standard since the Magna Carta was written in 1066.

She has gone too far.

Nobody hired Pat Christen to cut HIV services. She was hired to make sure they get doled out — and most people frankly think she does a lousy job of that. But this new megalomaniac, demanding to determine who

lives and who dies, is far too much to take. The complaints that she is out of touch have always been speculative until now — based on the assumption that as a white heterosexual HIV-negative East Bay resident she couldn't possibly sympathize enough with SFAF clients, most of whom are gay or people of color, and all of whom *must* be city residents — but now there is concrete evidence. Only an uninfected person, and a stunningly cavalier one at that, could cut services to any PWA without a hearing and without evidence.

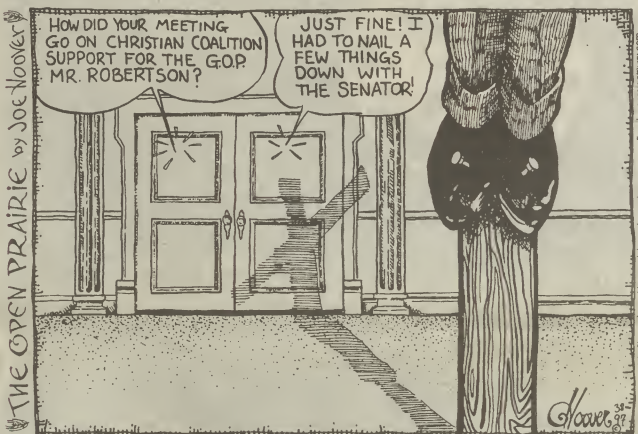
We wonder who'll be the next unfortunate person to piss her off, and pay for it with a loss of health services, next. Us? You? Perhaps, unless she is stopped, right now.

This is not a small matter. It is literally the power of life and death, and we don't want Pat Christen to have it. She has already shown she can't handle it. While everyone else is encouraged to have a good time this weekend, we'd like to suggest she spend it packing her bags.

Give her a call at (415) 487-3050 if you think so, too. ▼



Editorial



Needle exchange: good points

by Dr. Peter Beilenson, Baltimore City Health Commissioner

The following has been edited from Dr. Beilenson's testimony to the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice, September 18, 1997.

After more than three years of operation, we are very pleased with how the Needle Exchange Program (NEP) is going in Baltimore. The program is attracting much larger numbers of clients than we expected and is accomplishing its mission of reducing the transmission of HIV among injection drug users, their sexual partners, and their offspring. And it serves as a much-needed point of access to care for hard-core addicts who otherwise have had virtually no access to drug treatment or other healthcare.

The NEP operates at six sites, and is open four days a week. Enrolled clients are able to exchange used needles for sterile needles on a "one-for-one" exchange basis. Clients receive counseling about drug treatment programs, harm reduction in the use of needles, and education regarding HIV, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases. Blood tests and counseling for HIV and syphilis and skin tests for tuberculosis are also available.

Client placement in drug treatment programs is an important aspect of the NEP. Various drug treatment options are available on demand for interested participants. NEP participants who request treatment are enrolled in a comprehensive drug treatment program on demand within 24 hours, depending on the availability of NEP-designated treatment slots.

Through city funds provided by the mayor, approximately 90 treatment slots (which will be able to treat about 200 clients per year) have been earmarked for NEP participants.

Although we estimated during our initial testimony in 1994 that our NEP would serve between 500 and 750 clients in the first year of operation, the program has been far more popular than we anticipated. After the first 36 months of operation, approximately 6,000 clients had registered at one of the six program locations, making over 50,000 visits to exchange over 1.1 million needles. We are currently serving between 325 and 550 new and return clients per week.

Major preliminary findings from the evaluation study:

Discarded needles do not increase after the opening of needle exchange. There was some concern during initial legislative hearings that used needles would be discarded in the areas surrounding the NEP, despite the fact that the program is a one-for-one exchange (i.e. bring in a dirty needle in exchange for a clean, sterile one). In fact, a well-designed study looked at discarded needles around the two program sites compared to other high drug-use areas in the city and found no increase in the number of discarded needles in the areas surrounding the exchange.

The average age of needle exchange clients is 39 years old. Another concern raised by a few of the legislators in hearings was that the program would make it easy for youngsters to get needles. The average age of our clients is 39 years old, and our records show that

only two of our 6,000 clients are under 18.

Needle sharing is reduced. Obviously, the major goal of our NEP is to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the injection drug use community. To do that, we need to change our clients' drug use behavior. The preliminary results of our study look promising in this regard. Our clients reported significant drops in the following unsafe drug behaviors after starting the NEP: a) using needles after someone else; b) using cookers after someone else; c) using cotton after someone else; and d) letting a friend use your needle and syringe.

Finally, although some legislators expressed concerns that the program would make it more likely that injection drug users would use more frequently, that has not been the case — our clients report a 22 percent decrease in their frequency of drug use since joining the NEP.

The bottom-line goal of this program is to decrease the transmission of HIV, and we are showing a decrease in HIV seroconversion among the injection drug-using population that we are serving.

The average cost of caring for an adult AIDS patient, from the time of diagnosis with AIDS (not HIV infection) to death, is approximately \$102,000. Since the vast majority of our clients are either Medicaid eligible or uninsured (and thus, the cost of their care is passed on as uncompensated care), virtually all of AIDS care for this population is borne by state taxpayers.

Since the actual NEP operation will cost about \$300,000 to serve an estimated 6,000 clients, if even three cases of AIDS are prevented, the program will be cost-effective. ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Demolition derby

Last week, when I read in the B.A.R. that the Gay Lesbian Transgender Community Center Board of Directors was proposing to demolish the 100-year-old Victorian at Market and Octavia Streets, I was outraged enough to get off my couch potato butt and head down to their hearing to protest.

After listening to members of the board present their proposal, I realized that they appear to more concerned about quantities of office space than creating an aesthetically responsible structure which is suitable for the neighborhood. Their architects and various consultants discussed the costs and difficulties of historic restoration, but what I did not hear was how the board became involved in this site in the first place. If this site is found not suitable or is too expensive for the Community Center, then the board should admit that they made a mistake and move on. The board, not a 100-year-old Victorian, is the problem.

As many San Franciscans know, getting involved with a Victorian is like a marriage. You establish a budget, you set priorities, possibly you struggle to make the relationship work. The result is a win-win situation for everyone. The historic restoration success in the city is one of the main reasons that we have such a wonderful environment to live in and that San Francisco is the #1 tourist destination in the country. During the conservation battles of past generations, San Franciscans have demonstrated that bigger is not always better, and conserving our Victorians should, at this point in time, be demonstrated as a non-negotiable civic responsibility. In other words, if there are irreconcilable differences in the marriage of the gay community center to this Victorian site, you don't kill your partner — you get a divorce and find another site.

If this board and their architects continue down the demolition path, they will have blood on their hands. They will find me and, I am certain, many other gay and straight San Franciscans up in arms against the project, and they will have no one to blame but themselves.

If you agree with this point of view, I suggest that you join me and my friends in the following actions:

- 1) Write letters to the Advisory Board and the Board of Directors and the Mayor to protest this proposal.
- 2) Attend any future board hearings and speak out against this proposal.
- 3) Refuse to contribute additional funds to the Community Center Project until the board finds a way to save this building.
- 4) If you have already contributed money to the center, ask for a refund, on the basis of misrepresentation of their original statement of purpose.

David Cannon
San Francisco

Manly men and girlie men, cont.

John S. Connolly III's attack (September 11) on Mr. Schaefer for preferring masculine men (September 4) is almost as fascist as insisting that men wear pants and women wear skirts. If Mr. Schaefer prefers manly men and Mr. Connolly prefers girlie men, I don't see why the two of them can't co-exist peacefully. Mr. Connolly dictating the "correct" mode of behavior for queer men is obnoxious in the extreme. Mr. Schaefer may have overstated his case when he wrote that he had "never met a gay man who is not turned on by masculinity." He, however, did not stoop to the depths that Mr. Connolly did with his suggestion of buying "yourself the biggest dildo you can find to loosen up your tight-assed mind and body so they are integrated." Personal attacks like those make me very sad. Tolerance for differences of opinion is the hallmark of a mature community.

Mr. Connolly claims to be a revolutionary, but were his revolution to succeed, he would be telling us all how to behave, just like every patriarchal dictatorship before him except for maybe a cross-dressing twist to the oppression. At any gathering of gay men I've attended, I've been always been stimulated by the wide spectrum of gender identification, diversity of sexual interests, and the various paths towards individuation found within the community. Some men seem right at home in fabulous femme drag or fantastic fetish wear (my personal favorite), while others seem equally comfortable in standard issue masculine clothing. I would not think it was incumbent upon me to tell either group what they should do.

I did not listen nor obey when my parents and straight society insisted that I should be attracted to the opposite sex. And I will not now listen nor obey anyone from my community telling me what I should be sexually interested in or how I should behave. My hope for the community is to be free to play with whatever gender roles we find arousing. We need not be threatened when others choose a path different from our own.

Scott Carson
Oakland, CA

Money-changers in the temple

On Sunday, September 14th, at the 7 p.m. service, I was appalled to hear that the part-time personnel were laid off due to the continuing escalating economic concerns of the religious corporation, the so-called Christian church of MCC/SF. I am deeply concerned that the fundamental principles on which Christianity is built, the protection of the poor, the healing of the afflicted, and the liberation of the enslaved, are being ignored in order that the cosmetic face-lift of the church building (the now new skylight being put in place obviously to highlight how much more money is needed in the coming year) and the salaries of the ministers are maintained as well as increased. It seems that the appearances of being "whole" are more important than actually becoming whole — that is, the whole church community becoming whole together — in order that the offerings continue to increase. It amazes me that so much of the music and sermons are about overcoming fear, and yet fear is preached at the time of the offering in order to manipulate and exploit the church, the people, in order that the chairman of the board (pastor) and managers (associate ministers, including music) of this religious corporation can continue to receive their salaries. Fear is preached when the part-time employees (who probably really need the money) are laid off (corporate down-sizing) so that the management and chairman can continue their more-than-adequate salaries (when they, too, could live very well on much less).

The principles of gay and straight liberation and male and female bonding that are preached are extraordinarily clear, progressive and illuminating. My anger, which saddens my spirit, is that it seems to appear that this is only an intellectual game without heart.

If the Christian principles are from a heart position, then the chairman of the board and the upper management would have taken a pay cut in order that the part-time personnel could keep their employment. And all the so-called community involvement that is stressed is based upon participating in fundraisers (such as the yard sale and Folsom Street Fair), and not in community projects that are not seeking money. Not that these are wrong, but everything seems to be focused on raising money and not on awakening or raising up the community.

Even the all church retreat excluded those who could not afford the \$135 or even 50% of the fee with a scholarship. The all church retreat was only for those with extra income, but not all members of the community without economic resources. I truly believe that what was accomplished at the retreat was awesome, very innovative and healing, but it is a shame that there could not be a full free weekend retreat here in San Francisco with communal meals offered, without charge, so those who are the poorest of the poor in the community can benefit from the healing experiences a retreat can offer.

It appears that MCC/SF is more interested in keeping the comfortable comfortable, and the poor poor and in their places, so that more money will be placed in the offering plates.

It is very clear to a few of us that over a third of the yearly budget goes in paying the salaries of the "first family" of MCC/SF — that is, the pastor, the music director, and the signer, who all share a single household. They are all very talented and all deserve much, but once again, when the primary principles of Christianity are ignored while a few prosper well, it saddens many of us. There is so much potential here, and yet a few prosper on the labors of the many. It is really, really sad.

I would continue to go to this church is if was in the poorest neighborhood in the city, if it would only teach with actions as well as words the fundamental Christian principles. I know a great many richly adorned church buildings here in the city that have very small congregations, mainly because they spent all their resources, people and money on building a beautiful building while ignoring the basic needs of the community. It appears that MCC/SF is stressing and selling Christianity with the "buy gay" marketing aspect that the Castro projects. As we all know, most products that can be found anywhere in the city are 20-40% higher in the Castro. It appears that MCC, too, is projecting this marketing play.

It is my most humble and earnest prayer that you accept and think on what I have written, for it is not in maliciousness that I have written this, but in love. I still believe that MCC can help heal the world (tikkun) to the better, but only if it teaches words with actions, seeking to heal both the comfortable and the afflicted. I continue to come to MCC because of this vision of healing all without exception; unless this healing vision dissipates, then I will seek an honest and upright (orthodox) community church elsewhere.

David-Isaiah Anastasia
San Francisco

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Horror NAP

I'll bet you can't imagine yourself, in your own property, with an intruder who pays no rent, commits havoc and threatens you and your possessions, and you have no legal recourse to get him out!

You say, "This cannot happen to me?"

There are scammers who appear to be very "nice-appearing people," who take advantage of the current rental regulations and laws, finding loopholes where, if they manage to get into your property, they can gain a foothold to where you cannot get them out. They claim tenancy rights, using the legal system and rental board system to protect them as "squatters."

Having access to all your possessions, running up phone bills, utilities, 976 calls, you name it, meanwhile threatening you with legal action, threatening your safety and making you afraid to be at home, and afraid to leave home. All the while they are, in essence, stealing free rent/utilities/expenses.

The police won't help when the "squatter" is disturbing the peace! The city won't help, the rental board won't help, and no one can come to the aid of immediate relief, no matter that this squatter is a threat to person and property!

My horror story: On August 2 a new acquaintance I've only known a few days shows up at my house for a visit in which he shows to be a very "nice appearing person" (NAP). This NAP pleads helpless and needs a place to stay, in a temporary situation, for the night in one of my spare bedrooms. Then he asked to stay two weeks, to no longer than 30 days, just to get back on his feet, all within about an hour's time. Being the cautious person I was, I had him sign a written agreement stating he'd leave or be out the 30th day, no exceptions, for which he signed, before I let him stay.

NAP signed that he would leave on or before 30 days. NAP understood the house was in escrow and I would be moving soon, as well. NAP also knew the new owners are staying in a hotel, waiting to move in after the close of escrow. NAP agreed he would not create any problems whatsoever, if I would kindly let him in off the streets and stay for less than 30 days.

NAP began to use the phone for 976 calls, things began being missing. NAP became threatening, hostile, enraged, untrustworthy.

NAP failed to move out when requested on the 19th of August after breaching our agreement for the last time. NAP failed to move out on the 30th day. He instead threatened to use the rental board laws against me as legal actions allowing him to stay "60 or 90 days" "scot-free," and there won't be a thing I could do about it," he said, in writing and in person. He also threatened \$100-a-day fines if I tried to have him removed. He has trespassed into my private areas of my home and things have disappeared, including cash.

Threats continued against myself and my possessions, I was being blackmailed in my own home by an intruder who gained access by means of trickery and false representations. Then he claimed "renter's squatter's rights."

He was disturbing the peace, threatening me, and acting violently. I called the police. They came, took a report, and left, but would not remove him. Two police reports later, the intruder is still in my home, flaunting his "squatter's rights" knowledge in glee.

This nightmare became real to me when I learned from others he had used this device as a routine in the past, many times before.

I filed a temporary restraining order, yet that is a piece of paper, with a hearing weeks away.

This is a nightmare for decent people who just try to be kind. Are we laughing yet? This is not a comedy! It's a crime! The law needs to be changed to reflect what it truly is!

Todd Bishop
San Francisco

Royal blunders

Wayne Friday is apparently amiable with politicians (and gives good schmooze), and he's not ignorant, but his columns are a bore. His information is nothing more than a re-hash of what's available to anyone who reads the mainstream newspapers.

His comments on Princess Diana were embarrassing - un-noted, for instance, Diana's brother's scathing and courageous comments in Westminster Abbey, the fact that Queen Elizabeth, but not Margaret, bowed her head when Diana's coffin passed by, that William studiously kept his back to the cameras, and any comments - and subsequent behavior - of the fact that the royal family were totally unaware of Diana's popularity.

Details, but. It's details, not banal generalities, that make a column interesting.

I grew up when there was no "gay" press. (I'm 65.) So for a long time, I was always pleased for any "gay" press to read. In my head, B.A.R. remains indispensable (I go out of my way to get a copy). But why on earth can't you locate, hire, and pay a more perspicacious political columnist than Mr. Friday?

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

[The editor responds: Pay? Pay?]

Defending affirmative action

Re: Beth Elliott's attack on Affirmative Action and her personal hit on the students who spurned Boalt Hall [Sappphistication, September 4]. Maybe they wanted to learn in a friendlier environment than KKKalifornia. Has anyone interviewed them to find out? I'm a white guy, never knowingly nuked by Affirmative Action. My opinion on that is, who said life is fair?

Life isn't fair, and as long as there are Neanderthals like Newt Gingrich and Jesse Helms around, working hard to preserve the privileges and perks of the Good Ol' Boys networks, we need Affirmative Action. Racism isn't dead. Look at the near-all-white Castro. I've met racist gay white men who made me want to pull my beard hairs out. I never thought a supposedly sophisticated liberal lesbian would write such right-wing garbage. I am really disappointed.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

[Beth is libertarian, which only shares the first three letters with liberal.]

Season's greetings

Now that Labor Day is over, it is time for most retail businesses to bring out their Christmas decorations either for sale or to decorate their own shops.

Every year we watch and complain or comment to each other about this earlier and earlier bombardment of commercialism, as businesses throughout this country race to outdo each other in the destruction of the Christmas spirit.

Every year comedians and newspaper comics joke about the never-ending illogic in this race against time among businesspeople. Psychologists study the effects of commercialism on people and why so many become seriously depressed and disgruntled during the Christmas season. The news media reports on this phenomenon, advising us on how to "survive" the season.

What has been the result of all these comments, complaints, jokes, analysis and reports? Nothing! The race continues, businesses start the Christmas season sooner and sooner, and people become more and more disheartened. Obviously, something isn't working; for the public, that is.

Therefore, I would like to suggest a new tactic in the battle against Christmas commercialism. This year, for the next two months or so, do nothing. That's right, do and say nothing about it, try to avoid the stores, and most importantly, buy nothing.

For some of us, this will not be so difficult. For others, it may be as hard as going on a strict diet. This new tactic will also take a while before results are seen. However, rest assured that no business will continue a marketing policy that proves an economic failure.

In other words, from now on, the name of the game is passive resistance. Let the business world play its silly little games of manipulation. I am sure that we, the consumers, will be the eventual winners in this, for herein lies our true power over such crass and manipulative business practices.

Let our motto for this new way of dealing with Christmas commercialism be "Silence is Golden."

Tim J. Hume
San Francisco

Targeted at the Windmills

I wonder if anyone is aware that the SFPD has decided to target gay men or supposedly gay men in the Windmills area of Golden Gate Park. Recently I sat in my car for a short time watching as a motorcycle police officer rode up and down ticketing cars for violations such as expired registration, no front tags and parking more than 18" from the curb. From time to time, this officer would disappear, riding along the trails within the park which pedestrians are supposedly prohibited from walking on.

I decided to take a drive through the park to see if other cars in other areas were also being ticketed, and sure enough, there was not one ticket in sight, even though there were many more cars parked throughout the more popular areas of the park.

One may ask why this certain area of the park was being ticketed more than any other. Was it because all of the deadbeats of San Francisco had decided to park in one area? Of course not! Everyone knows that this is and has always been a popular gay cruising area, and the police have decided to target gays. If they cannot get us in any other way, then they can at least ticket our cars. The irony of it is that as many people returned to their cars, they were in fact not gay, but were families and straight couples who had parked their cars and walked to Ocean Beach. Still, there were enough queer cars ticketed to make it worth the SFPD's time and trouble.

I find it an outrage that this city funds this type of obvious harassment and would like the B.A.R. and other gay press to pursue this obviously ignored story.

Name withheld by request
San Francisco

[See "Tilting at Windmills," July 31 B.A.R.]

Dornan undone

by Wayne Friday

When will the right-wing Republicans in the House of Representatives come to their collective senses and face reality? To be sure, Representative **Loretta Sanchez's** 979-vote victory margin over the ultraconservative (some say whacko) **Bob Dornan** in Orange County's 46th District last November was a cliffhanger. However, it was a victory nonetheless.

It's been nearly a year now, and "B-1 Bob" Dornan, to the surprise of no one, simply cannot accept defeat. He ranks as one of the whiniest sore losers of all time.

What's worse, though, is that the man has somehow convinced enough Republicans in the House to hang in there with him in hopes of somehow overturning the election results and stealing the seat back from Sanchez. This issue has been lingering in the House ever since Sanchez took office, with Dornan always managing to get just enough of the GOP-controlled House on his side to keep the matter alive.

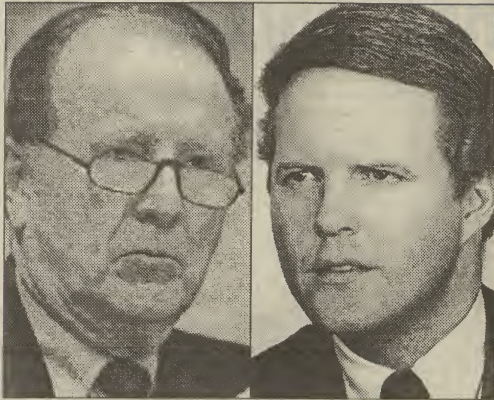
Dornan's claim that he "was robbed" of re-election is based on his belief that he was denied his old seat because of "illegal voting by Latino non-citizens." Even though that claim has never been substantiated, he is still using every imaginable tactic to avoid conceding defeat.

Last week, Dornan, who's been utilizing (read: abusing) a long-time courtesy extended to former House members of allowing them access to the floor, reportedly cursed out a Hispanic House member for objecting to Dornan's using the floor privilege to lobby fellow members for support in his fight against Sanchez. According to other House members, Dornan called the Sanchez supporter a "coward," a "liar and anti-Catholic." The representative reportedly asked the target of his ire to "step outside," apparently challenging him to a fight.

After this latest outrageous outburst (Dornan is infamous for berating liberals, gays, lesbians, and anyone who has not served in the military on the House floor), some of his former fellow House members had finally had enough and voted last Friday to bar Dornan from entrance to the floor: The 289 lawmakers who voted to eighty-six Dornan included 111 members of his own Republican Party, many of whom are fed up with his eccentric, embarrassing antics.

Only 65 House members voted against banishing Dornan. The lone Democrat was the conservative **Ralph Hall** of Texas. The 64 Republicans included, according to a spokesman from his Washington office, Representative **Tom Campbell**, the "moderate" Republican from Santa Clara County, who has somehow managed to convince many (including this writer) in the past that he is not a friend of Bob Dornan's.

Even Representative **Dick Armey** of Texas, the powerful House Majority Leader, voted against allowing Dornan access. Speaker **Newt Gingrich** abstained from voting. How about an explanation, Mr. Campbell? I'm sure your press spin doctors



Rep. Tom Campbell voted against banishing Dornan.

can come up with one.

Isn't it about time that Bob Dornan and his Republican allies in DC get the message that this one is over and out? Get a life, Dornan, and let Representative Loretta Sanchez get on with the work the voters elected her to do.

People and politics

Speaking of congressional races, more than a few Democrats wish that **Michela Alioto** would quietly give up her re-run for Congress in the First District, leaving the way clear for state Senator **Mike Thompson**. Polls show Thompson could defeat conservative Representative **Frank Riggs** next year. The First District is a solid Democratic district with a 15-point registration edge against the GOP, but a bitter primary fight between Thompson and the once-defeated Alioto could pave the way for Riggs's re-election.

Thompson — a lifelong Napa resident, decorated Vietnam War veteran, and popular state legislator — already has the endorsement of a dozen Demo members of the state's House delegation and deserves a chance to take on Riggs. Incidentally, Thompson has the backing of Representative **Dick Gephardt**, while Alioto claims to still have the support of **Al Gore**. Could we be seeing an early political test here?

Last week's NYC elections indicate that at least two openly homosexual members of the City Council should win seats in November: **Margarita Lopez** (the first openly lesbian Puerto Rican to run in NYC) and the openly gay **Phil Reed**, both from Manhattan. They will most likely join another gay CC member, **Antonio Pagan**.

In Southern California last week, hundreds of parents of gays and lesbians demonstrated at Disney World to thank the park for supporting gays despite pressure and boycotts from the religious right.

In Omaha, Nebraska, Rev. **Jimmy Creech**, the senior pastor of that city's 1,900-member United Methodist Church, defied orders from his bishop last Sunday and conducted a "ceremony of commitment" for a lesbian couple.

Celebs in our midst? I spent the weekend at the Russian River so I saw none of them, but my phone rang off the hook Monday with reports that film star **Rupert Everett**, the handsome co-star of *My Best Friend's Wedding*, was vis-

iting Castro nightspots with a couple of "longtime San Francisco friends" Saturday. I'm told that the ever-popular **Harvey Fierstein**, in town for the Solo Mio Fest, was also making the rounds.

Christian Coalition founder **Pat Robertson** has publicly urged Republicans to unite around a single candidate in 2000 to keep Democrats from winning another term in the White House, according to a taped speech he gave to hundreds of his supporters recently. Seems to me the tape, which has been widely played in the media, proves that the coalition's main mission is indeed political and that the group no longer deserves its tax-exempt status.

Slain multimillionaire designer **Gianni Versace** left his lover, **Antonio D'Amico**, a \$30,000 monthly allowance and his choice of the six houses Versace owned to live in for the rest of his natural life.

San Francisco legislators **John Burton**, **Carole Migden**, and **Kevin Shelley**, and Marin Assemblywoman **Kerry Mazzoni** are said by Capitol watchers to have been among the more productive lawmakers of the recently concluded legislative session.

Incidentally, Marin Supes **Hal Brown** is said to be a "sure" Demo candidate against GOP incumbent Insurance Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush** next year. Brown is a cousin of former Governor **Jerry Brown**.

State Senator **Quentin Kopp** (I-SF) is supporting liberal Democrat **John Vasconcellos's** "exploratory" race for governor. Vasco's a good guy, but his rigid pro-life stance will never play here. Bottom line: the Vasconcellos campaign for governor is going nowhere, and Senator Kopp is apparently willing to go nowhere with it.

East Bay Assemblyman **Don Perata** (D), who wrote three gun control bills this year and has shepherded dozens more through the Legislature, recently admitted that he has carried a concealed weapon since 1988. The pistol-packing Perata says his life is "regularly threatened" and sees no conflict in arming himself while trying to legislate weapons out of existence.

Of course, I don't usually plug shows, but this one, ladies and gentlemen, is a must! San Francisco's very own **Sharon McNight** is appearing with the Peninsula Civic Light Opera as the star of *Hello Dolly* tomorrow night (Friday, Sept. 26) through Sunday, Oct. 5, at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware, San Mateo (tix \$20; 579-5563 for info). ▼

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Rebel without her croixes

by Beth Elliott

Root, Root, Root for the Home Team Dept.: Definitely on my list of life's little treasures: a balmy Indian summer afternoon spent watching the Giants beat the Dodgers with the pennant on the line. Too many Dodgers fans at the 'Stick, but I know how to shut them up. I waited till the obnoxious one behind me exclaimed, "Look at all of us! We've got this section nailed down!" then turned to him and said calmly, "Yes, you've got your own little San Fernando Valley here!" They hate being told they must be from, like, y'-know, "the Valley."

Of course, cheering on the Giants live means the inevitable cold night game at Candlestick. Fifteen years ago, the last time the 'Stick was the site of the proverbial giant sucking sound, the team started a promotion poking fun at the wind and fog that races through the gap between Mount San Bruno and McLaren Park to freeze the fans. They designed a pin they called the "Croix de Candlestick," an award for valor for staying till the end of an extra inning night game. They would hand them out at the gates after every such game, then made them available at ticket windows in exchange for the relevant stub ... which meant

people could wuss out and collect a Croix anyway.

The Croixes are still available, but the Giants are promoting the new ballpark instead. So, returning to Candlestick after watching the Giants defeat the Texas Rangers in 11 (but no sight of former Giant Will Clark, alas), I approached the ticket window, stub in hand, only to face a ticket agent who had no idea what I was talking about, not even after I removed my cap and showed her the half dozen already on the back. Fortunately, the agent next to her opened a drawer full of them and explained. In order not to confuse her further, I made the supreme sacrifice and passed up the opportunity to quip, "La Croix, sweetie darling, la Croix." Perhaps I should have indulged myself; it would have been so San Francisco.

Warning, Your Government Thinks You're So Stupid That It Has to Protect You from a Cartoon Camel Dept.: You know, I'm not a fan of the cigarette industry. I respect the right of others to indulge in their product—among consenting adults in private—and am always happy when friends give them up. As someone who'll smoke the occasional cigar, my take on tobacco is the same as on any other drug: know what you're getting into, and use intelligently if you're going to use. I like drug dealers who provide quality choices to intelligent consumers and think ill of people who exploit addiction ... but don't believe it's my place to interfere with other people's self-destructive behavior. Besides, I think the industry's taste in senator buying sucks.

That said, there are things about the current tobacco witch hunt that frighten the hell out of me. Educating teenagers so more of them know better than to get addicted while trying to look "cool" is a good thing. But people are using "teen smoking" as, well, a smokescreen for the kinds of power plays that have no place in a democracy, among free people.

John Burton is making noises about state legislation to cut down on the amount of smoking shown in movies. This presumably would lower teen smoking, the excuse being given for another heartwarming episode in the continuing story of eroding the First Amendment so people who think they can run our lives better than we can ourselves have more Big Brother-type power to do so. John, you're a liberal—you're supposed to believe in the First Amendment!

I also note that President

Clinton wants to sock it to the cigarette companies' pocketbooks ... with a plan including economic subsidies for tobacco farmers on the ground that "many communities rely solely on this income." Here's a question: If the cigarette makers are evil and need to be put out of business, what makes the tobacco growers innocents deserving of subsidies? They, too, are

profiting from nicotine addiction. Could it be that the real agenda here is to demonize one industry so that politicians can loot it with impunity, extorting money to finance programs that will help secure their voting base? Sure looks like it.

I don't want us to go

there. If we empower government to protect us "for our own good," then if people we don't like get hold of that power, we're screwed. Many of us called Dan Lungren evil for interfering with people choosing to use marijuana as medicine—for doing with marijuana what Clinton and Burton want to do with tobacco.

There are so-called conservatives trying to protect us, by force, from the "homosexual lifestyle" on grounds that it's even more unhealthy than smoking cigarettes. They're going on Bill Maher's *Politically Incorrect* and saying we have a life expectancy in the low 40s, so government should prevent us from being homosexual for our own good.

Also in the works in Congress is legislation to tax "unhealthy" foods heavily in order to force Americans onto a low-fat, low calorie diet. Perhaps what it will take to wake people up to the erosion of our freedom is Congress pissing off the choco-lolics.

Don't Confuse Us With the Facts Dept.: When the Benton County, Oregon Coroner asked a forensics specialist to do radiocarbon dating on remains belonging to a white man of average height and slender build, somewhere between the ages of 40 and 55, he was surprised to find they were from 8,000 B.C.E. Obviously, this could rewrite the history of this continent ... but further research on "Kennewick Man" has been halted by the Army Corps of Engineers, which wants to hand the remains over, under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, to local First Nation folks opposed to further study because it might undermine their creation stories.

"Creation Science": not just for right-wing Christians anymore? ▼



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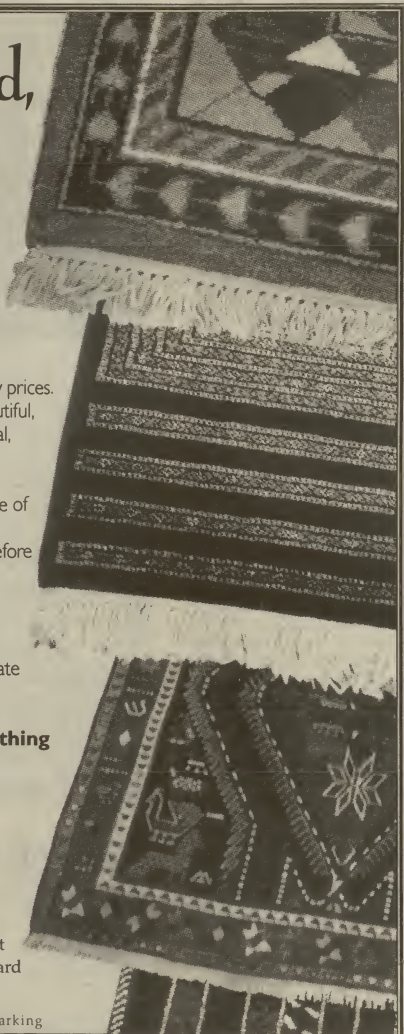
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HISTORY LESSON

The world's most famous lesbian folk singer

by David Bianco

Who was Sappho? The very term "lesbian" refers to the most famous resident of the Greek Isle of Lesbos. Sappho, who lived in the seventh century before the common era, was a celebrated poet whose sexuality has been the source of controversy for more than two millennia.

It is difficult to speak with much historical certainty about events and personalities that took place more than 2,500 years ago, especially when written sources are scarce. In the case of Sappho, less than ten percent of her poetry has survived, and much of what we have is fragmentary. Nonetheless, Sappho's literary reputation has garnered much attention, and some biographical details are fairly clear.

Sappho was born to an aristocratic family in the town of Eresos on the southwest coast of Lesbos. Her mother was a Lesbian, her father was a Lesbian—and she had three Lesbian brothers as well. She may have been in charge of a girls' school, and she wrote nine books of lyric poetry. Her poetic genius was such that a few centuries after her death, Plato wrote, "Some say the Muses are nine, but how carelessly! Look at the tenth, Sappho from Lesbos."

Most of the surviving poetic fragments from Sappho's repertoire have come from Greek and Roman authors who quote her—from a few words to several lines—in their own works. In addition, some fragments of papyrus and a shard of pottery with lines from her poetry have been found in Egypt. Because her surviving works are so fragmentary—and because sung Greek poetry doesn't translate easily into written English—it is difficult to convey

the power Sappho's corpus had over the ancients. Nonetheless, her works continue to fascinate modern readers, especially those interested in her expressions of affection for other women.

The closest we have to a surviving complete Sapphic poem is her "Hymn to Aphrodite," in which she celebrates her affectionate relationship with the Goddess of Love. In the song, Aphrodite asks Sappho which woman is currently causing her heartache, and reassures the poet that "if she won't love you, she soon will."

In another song, Sappho expresses her jealousy for a man who is able to talk calmly with a beautiful woman. In contrast, for Sappho,

"the instant I look upon you, I cannot anymore speak one word/But in silence my tongue is broken, a fine fire at once runs under my skin, with my eyes I see not one thing, my ears buzz, Cold sweat covers me, trembling seizes my whole body, I am more moist than grass; I seem to be little short of dying..."

Although the lesbian desire in the above fragment is unmistakable, many interpreters have argued that the poem actually signifies Sappho's celebration of one of her students' heterosexual engagements.

The heterosexualization of Sappho has often had comic or ironic results. In his *Lesbian Love: Old and New*, published in the United States in 1966, Walter Braun argued, "In fact Sappho was a heterosexual, who in her attitude towards girls under her care can be compared with the attitude Socrates took to the boys he had to educate." Well, sort of.

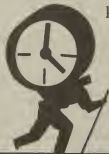
Many writers have pointed to ancient sources that claim Sappho

had a husband named Kerkylas from the island of Andros. But the Greek word *kerkos* (tail) is common slang for penis, and andromean means male. Claiming that a prominent woman-loving woman had a husband named, essentially, "Dick from Manville" is at best dubious evidence of her heterosexuality.

While many scholars have tried to interpret away Sappho's erotic attraction for women, others have tried to destroy her work altogether. One reason so few of her poems have survived is that much of her work was burned by Christian zealots in late antiquity.

Despite such persecution, Sappho's work and reputation have had a major influence on modern lesbian identity. Obviously the terms "Sapphic" and "lesbian" owe their origin to the Greek poet, but her influence is far greater. Many 20th century lesbian poets, such as Amy Lowell and May Sarton, refer directly to Sappho in their work. A seminal text in the lesbian-feminist movement of the early 1970s was entitled *Sappho Was a Right-On Woman*. And for the last 25 years, a British organization named Sappho has organized social, political, and literary activities for lesbians. ▼

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of the B.A.R. or at AriBianco@aol.com.



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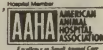


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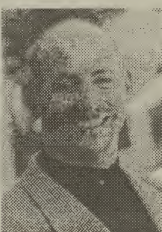
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Dr. Seneché's goal is to help patients, their doctors and medical providers better understand the concepts of HIV therapy so they can make more accurate and sensible decisions in the treatment of HIV infection.

Dr. Seneché is a pioneer in the HIV field. A 1988 honors graduate of Harvard Medical School and M.I.T., he also holds a degree in astronautical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has been in practice for six years and manages the care of more than 600 patients with HIV infection.

Dr. Seneché's book is now available in bookstores and through 1-800-572-2027.





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Queer art online

by Heather Shirley

A revolution is taking hold of the visual arts community via the untamed, uncharted land of the World Wide Web. Art depicting queer life and art created by queer artists, which was once tucked away in obscure galleries and private collections, is now beginning to boom onto the scene. Using the Web as an outlet for awareness, expression and recognition, the gay art call is being supported by several sites that are working out of love, a desire to educate the world on the integrity of queer art, and a desire to preserve and display the wonderful works that have been created by and for the community.

One such site is the "Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation" (http://www.3wnet.com/corp/Leslie_Lohman/ll2.html), whose mission is "to locate, rescue, and preserve works of gay art that are endangered because of societal sexual prejudice." Once past the eye-catching opening graphic of the Leslie-Lohman site, you will see the digital representation of a lifetime love, created by two New York-based art aficionados, Fritz Lohman and Charles Leslie. Lohman and Leslie, who have been life partners since 1960, have dedicated their time and attention to bringing queer art to the forefront of the New York art scene. This online contribution is just one of the many ways they are working to gain national and international awareness for their

wondrous queer art collection.

Although the site is rather simple in appearance (especially for an art gallery based in New York) and suffers from a not necessarily swift load time, it still allows a palatable peek into pieces from current and past art exhibits, the Leslie-Lohman permanent collection, and their official newsletter, "The Archive." The site's soon-to-be grand charm, however, is an area that is still in development, called "Milestones." This section of the site will eventually host a timeline of gay art, which will be an historical perspective of gay creations through the years, the likes of which cannot be found anywhere else online.

A more familiar name to many of us has been on the path of art preservation, with a focus on homoerotic creations. "The Tom of Finland Foundation" (<http://www.eroticons.inter.net/foundation/welcome.html>) hosts a site that represents a safe space for erotic art and is working to build awareness of the validity of erotic art as respected art. The foundation was created for artists, curators, collectors, and anyone else who may have a personal or academic interest in erotic art and creating a valid space for it in history.

The site is clean, but tends to drag when loading, particularly for a design that is mainly text-based. (Smaller file size, Geek Grrrl says!) Inconsistencies also exist in structure, in that the tool bar is available only on the front page. So delving into the site creates a lot of back-tracking rather than networking. However, the Foundation site does provide a limited art preview section, and some other images hidden in the archive area, for those just interested in digging a bit.

If you're seeking "A place of art, learning and culture for women-oriented women," you'll find it on the "Isle of Lesbos" (<http://www.sappho.com/lart/index.shtml>). Focused on collecting art or artists that have an appeal to the lesbian community, "Isle of Lesbos" brings together art from the 1500s to present day, portraying a wide range of lesbian

life and experiences. Although much of the imagery is not traditionally referred to as "lesbian," the site takes a fresh look at art interpretation and nuance by adding a lesbian spin. The site design is a bit overly-simplistic, but the sub-pages are rich with digital representations of the art to which the site refers. Just be prepared for a long wait while the pages are loading, which is generally the case with graphics-heavy sites.

One Web site which is among the most outstanding G&L art resources is "The Estate Project For Artists With AIDS" (<http://www.artistswith-aids.org/>).

Geek Grrrl pored over its pages, pleased beyond compare! The Estate Project has done an amazing job gathering tons of queer art info into a well-organized, elegant site that is easily navigable. Although the site is mainly text, it is so rich in content that it is a positive experience none-the-less.

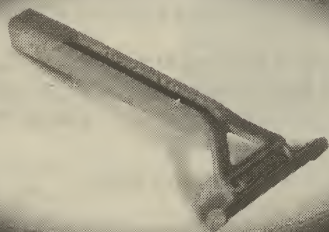
"The Estate Project For Artists With AIDS" pages are not only for the art sophisticate in all of us, but for the artist we each are. HIV-positive artists can find particular support and resources here for protecting the future of their designs. "This publication has been researched and produced by a group of people in the arts who want to provide basic advice on how to begin planning for the care of your art," stresses the text in the "A User's Manual for Artists" area. Some of the immediate tips: Make an inventory of all your work; Ask for advice, especially legal counsel; Prepare a will with professional help; and Above all, start now.

Geek Grrrl can only expect that these sites, which are on the electronic edge of a new movement, are going to continue to grow. Be sure to visit their links and support the historical treasures of the queer community. ▼

Link to the sites mentioned in today's article from Geek Grrrl's Web page at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaa/bar>.



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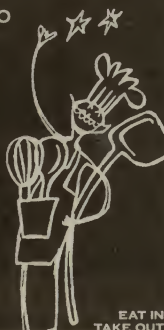
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TAKE OUTHate-mongering
radio host hit with hateby Don Romesburg,
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As reported in the *Bay Area Reporter* earlier this month, and in GLAADAlerts across the country last week, on the August 29 show of Crosstalk on Christian-owned KBRT-AM in Costa Mesa, California, host Rich Agozino suggested that homosexuality should be punishable by death. According to his interpretation of the Bible, Agozino said, "Lesbian love [and] sodomy are viewed by God as being detestable and abominable. ... Civil magistrates are to put people to death who practice these things." He also urged listeners and callers to write to state legislators calling for laws that would sentence lesbians and gay men to death. Since Agozino announced his execution-style morality, KBRT-AM reports that it has been besieged by a torrent of criticism, including, unfortunately, a bomb threat.

GLAAD opposes violence as a means of voicing dissent against intolerance and bigotry, even when a media outlet advocates violence against lesbians and gay men, and even though the harassment felt by KBRT-AM and Agozino will doubtless give them a greater perspective on the threats and attacks lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people suffer daily due to the hostile environment people like Agozino create.

Write the station manager at KBRT-AM and Don Crawford, owner of the station, reminding them that its acts of hatred foment deep fear in the lesbian and gay community, and promote violence against lesbians and gay men in Orange County. In addition, consider filing a complaint with the FCC.

Contact:

- Don Crawford, Owner/President, Crawford Broadcasting,

P.O. Box 3003, Blue Bell, PA 19422, phone: 215.628.3500, fax: 215.628.0818;

- Ed Personius, Station Manager, KBRT-AM, 3183 Airway Avenue, Suite D, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, fax: 714.754.0735;
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554, phone for AM Radio Complaint Division: 202.418.2795, e-mail address for complaints: fccinfo@fcc.gov.

Ford exec makes
for good Fortune

The September 8 issue of *Fortune* magazine features "My Life As A Gay Executive," a powerful personal reflection by openly gay former Ford Chief Financial Officer Allan Gilmour. In the introduction, *Fortune* writes,



"Gays and lesbians who aspire to top corporate jobs find they must leave their sexual orientation at home because disclosure could injure their careers. ... How Gilmour's [closeted] homosexuality affected his success at Ford can only be

guessed at," noting he was passed over for CEO twice even though he was the candidate of the outgoing CEOs.

Gilmour describes his own slow discovery of his sexual orientation, and explains that he understands why corporations avoid openly gay hires from high-profile jobs: "Companies don't want executive personality being discussed; they want the products to be discussed."

As he began to attend more gay events, he "was concerned about general chitchat or rumors. Being gay complicated my life," he says. While still closeted, he became connected to the community by establishing a trust for lesbian and gay causes under a different name, and visited gay places like San Francisco and Provincetown.

"Seeing how gay people lived and played in places like this would surprise people who are

anti-gay. Our world is not that much different from the straight world," he says. "What worried me most about coming out was the effect on Ford," he admits. "I was afraid of being a diversion away from the business of Ford. I'd be a lightning rod. I was also afraid in a personal sense that I would be marginalized."

He discusses how after he retired, he came out, and how he supports nondiscrimination policies and domestic partnership policies at corporations. He also notes that "some companies will want to be leaders in eliminating homophobia and in providing fully equal treatment for gays and lesbians. The last acceptable prejudice is one too many. Yes, companies are in business to succeed and prosper, but discrimination and intolerance are never good business."

In the traditionally conservative world of blue-chip companies and financial media, *Fortune's* inclusion of a lengthy and candid discussion by Gilmour serves to open doors and minds in corporate America.

To thank *Fortune* for publishing this solid and intimate article on Gilmour and the corporate closet, contact John Huey, Managing Editor, *Fortune*, Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020-13931, fax: 212.765.2699, e-mail: fortune-letters@pathfinder.com, feedback form on WWW: <http://pathfinder.com/boards/fortune>.

New Mexico radio station
comes out with frequency

On National Coming Out Day, October 11, public radio station KUNM 89.9 FM in New Mexico will feature an entire day's worth of programming focusing on lesbian and gay issues, people, and music. Locally produced shows will address topics such as gay marriage, parenting, and politics and issues within the Hispanic and Jewish lesbian and gay communities.

In addition, interviews will feature lesbian and gay luminaries Urvashi Vaid and Michaelangelo Signorile. The "Folk Music USA" show will focus on lesbian and gay folk musicians, and the day will end with a planned disco dance party.

October is both Lesbian & Gay History Month and houses National Coming Out Day. Thank KUNM for their programming honoring our community, and encourage our local stations to do the same.

Contact: Richard Towne, General Manager, KUNM-FM, 89.9, Onate Hall, UNM, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1011, fax: 505.277.8016. ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glad@glad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mardi Gras madness



Approximately 5,000 people thronged the Preservation Park area in downtown Oakland on Sept. 20 for the first East Bay Gay Mardi Gras. Those on hand enjoyed live music, great food, and superb weather.

E Bay gay Dems mark 15 years with picnic

by Cynthia Laird

In the 15 years since the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club (EBL/GDC) was formed in 1982, the club has been instrumental in bringing gay rights issues to the forefront of political campaigns and within local governments across the bay. Next Saturday, October 4, members will gather in Oakland to celebrate with an anniversary picnic.

Interested people are welcome to attend the picnic at Temescal Regional Recreation Area in the Oakland hills, board member Brendalynn Goodall said. A nominal donation is requested; food and drinks will be provided.

Earlier this month, the EBL/GDC was named the "Democratic club of the year" by the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee; Brenda Crawford, the club's first African-American president, accepted the award at the central committee's

annual dinner.

The EBL/GDC has a long history, beginning with a letter East Bay resident Armand Boulay sent to three San Francisco gay papers many years ago; Oakland resident Jim Chambers was among the first to call him, inquiring about the idea of forming a political club in the East Bay. Chambers and his partner Eric Hsu are both longtime club members and were active in much of the club's early work.

The club was formed to work actively within the Democratic party and elsewhere to bring lesbian and gay rights to the attention of political campaigns. The club lobbies for legislation that upholds and advances the rights of sexual minorities.

Among its biggest achievements are last year's establishment of a domestic partner registry in the city of Oakland; getting domestic partnership recognized in the city of Berkeley; and the inclusion of sexual orientation in Oak-

land's non-discrimination policy.

There are also four openly gay elected officials in the East Bay: Tom Brougham, Peralta Community College District; Kriss Worthington, Berkeley City Council; Joaquin Rivera, Berkeley School Board; and Danny Wan, East Bay Municipal Utility District. Of the four, Brougham was the first, and for many years, the East Bay's only openly gay elected official. Worthington, Rivera, and Wan were all elected to office last November.

Goodall said that people interested in attending the October 4 picnic should RSVP by Wednesday, October 1. ▼

The picnic takes place from noon to 4 p.m. People should use the north entrance at Temescal Regional Recreation Area, off Highway 24. To RSVP or for more information, call (510) 704-5553. A \$3 per person donation is being requested.

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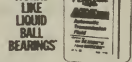
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Community center board votes 12-0 to raze Victorian building

Speakers divided at Sept. 17 meeting

by Cynthia Laird

Saying the decision was not easily made, the Community Center Project's (CCP) Board of Directors nonetheless voted unanimously Wednesday, September 17 to construct a completely new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center, rather than attempt to restore an existing three-story Queen Anne Victorian on the Market Street property.

The CCP board meeting was attended by about 40 people, and speakers were divided on the issue of whether or not to renovate the 103-year-old dilapidated Victorian. A three-month feasibility study conducted by a team of architects and engineers concluded that renovating the Victorian building would not be fiscally prudent. One of the key findings was that such renovation would cost between \$1.6 and \$2.6 million, compared to the original estimate of \$650,000. The CCP has already had to increase its capital campaign goal to raise \$3.5 million because the project's overall budget has increased; that doesn't include renovating the Victorian.

Architects Jane Cee and Peter Pfau, who conducted the feasibility study and submitted the winning community center design, said that keeping the Victorian would reduce usable space in the planned 41,000 square-foot center by up to 25 percent.

"Our original plan was to renovate the Victorian, and we did not reach tonight's decision easily or happily," board President Brenda Barnett said following the vote that took place after two hours of public testimony. "However, we feel this decision is the only one that will enable us to build a community center with room for all of the many dreams that have been expressed through community focus groups and forums."

Barnett said the only alternative would be to scale back the building with less room for meetings, workshops, and other community activities; the proposed auditorium was also mentioned as being among the items that would have to go if the Victorian was renovated.

In its 12-0 vote, the board also asked its building committee to consider options to mitigate the loss of the Victorian from the 1800 Market Street site. Among the options are conducting a thorough historical record of the property to create a permanent documentation of its details.

David Latina, chair of the building committee, said the group went back to the center's original goals that were developed through a series of focus groups held last year. Those goals include: space to meet identified needs; efficiency; accessibility; safety; cost effectiveness; growth and flexibility; avoiding the money pit; and predictability.

"The building committee made a unanimous decision to build a new 41,000 square-foot fa-



The 103-year-old Queen Anne at Market and Octavia sts. now slated for demolition.

cility," said Latina.

Other board members noted that ideally, based on all the community input, a center of 85,000 square feet would be needed; that was decreased, first to 50,000 square feet, and then to the present plan of 41,000 square feet.

Handsome, however...

It was the discovery that the Victorian is built on top of sand that led to the vastly increased renovation cost, the board said. Cee added that because the Victorian has been vacant for years and vandals have trashed the interior, any renovation plan would basically require gutting the building. Seismic and safety concerns were also at issue, as the wooden Victorian could not provide the same level of security from fire and earthquake that are prudent in a high-occupancy commercial building.

At last week's meeting, some community members talked about the importance of saving the Victorian; one said the building is part of a historical connection with the Hayes Valley historical neighborhood. Another man passed out photographs of a Victorian he renovated, saying the building was in worse shape than the Market Street Victorian.

Resident Vicki Berg encouraged people not to allow the board's decision, whatever it was, to divide the community. "It's really important that we put our hope and faith in the people who have been dealing with the project," she said. "It's

important not to use this to split the community."

Alvin Baum, Jr., a historical preservationist who has remodeled and restored six Victorian and Edwardian buildings in the city, wrote to the board saying he always felt retaining the Victorian was a mistake for the community center project, in part because of the expense, and because it would not be possible to integrate the wooden Victorian with the new construction. Additionally, Baum stated, "There is no compelling case for preserving this particular old building."

Scott Shafer, CCP board member, said, "We appreciate some people feel that the Victorian is a handsome structure; however, the board is committed to constructing a spectacular new building that future generations will cherish for its architectural statement. The board could not in good conscience approve a project with unpredictable renovation costs that would compromise the center's ability to serve this community fully."

The community center's architects are expected to meet this week with the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage to review the board's decision and the feasibility study. The CCP must now complete an environmental impact report (EIR), which is a public process prior to hearings that will be held before both the San Francisco Landmarks Board and Planning Commission. ▼

Plant auction benefits AIDS Emergency Fund

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books is sponsoring a silent auction of potted gardens to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). The gardens, created by various local individuals and nurseries, are on display at the store until Friday, September 26. Prospective buyers can bid on the potted creations through Friday, at which time the highest bidders will be determined.

One hundred percent of the auction proceeds will go to the AEF, which provides emergency assistance to people living with AIDS.

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books is located at 601 Van Ness (Opera Plaza) and is open from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and until midnight Friday and Saturday.

— Liz Hightleyman

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Continuum to open HIV day center in Tenderloin Tuesday

by Cynthia Laird

Described as a "contemporary urban phoenix," Continuum's new home in the Tenderloin, the beautiful new Ayse Manyas Kenmore Center, will be dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, September 30. The public is invited to attend.

Continuum provides adult day healthcare for people with disabling HIV disease; its new center was bought and renovated with more than \$1.25 million of privately raised money through a successful capital campaign, said William D. Glenn, executive director.

Glenn was a driving force behind the move to the new facility at 255 Golden Gate Avenue, between Leavenworth and Hyde streets. He believed that stabilizing Continuum by providing a longterm home for its many services was the smartest decision an AIDS agency could make in light of the always-changing vagaries of the epidemic. Previously, Continuum was located in rented offices at 10 United Nations Plaza on Market Street.

The agency, formed in the late



Jane Philomeni/Celanese

Continuum's brand-new Ayse Manyas Kenmore Center in the Tenderloin will be open for business Sept. 30.

1980s, provides professional health, social, and spiritual support and programs in a safe community setting to enhance the quality of life for people living with disabling HIV/AIDS. Week-day services include nursing, social work, substance abuse support, meals, occupational, and physical therapy, and art therapy. It is the only free-standing center of its kind for PWAs in the country, Glenn said.

"We see, daily, the gulf between those who are able to successfully negotiate their lives, including their HIV disease, and those whose lives have been compromised to such a degree that managing AIDS is another enormous challenge in an already challenged existence," Glenn said. "Our clients are not among the affluent, often not among those who have a lifetime of confident experience from which to create options."

A little more than a year ago, Continuum launched its "Campaign for Continuum," designed to raise \$1.25 million for the new building. Having selected a property in the Tenderloin, the agency received a substantial lead gift of \$300,000 from board member and longtime philanthropist Ayse Manyas Kenmore and her husband, Bob. With that contribution as a foundation, the campaign was able to garner significant community support and exceeded its goal in just 12 months. Glenn said that over eight years the agency will save \$1 million in rent by moving into the new building.

"We are thrilled to receive this gift, for that is what this building is. A gift that will allow us to continue to build human community, a hard-won commodity in each of our lives, but one I would say is Continuum's enormous contribution to the HIV landscape," said Glenn.

Elegance, efficiency

Sherry Thomas, campaign supporter and an executive with the library foundation, called it the "stealth" campaign. "They set their goal, announced their campaign, raised their funds, built their building, all in record time, with elegance and efficiency."

"We used no government dol-

lars to create the Ayse Manyas Kenmore Center," said Glenn, crediting the agency's board, staff, and strong community ties. "It is a gift to our clients, who are among those most needy in the city. Our generous benefactors, both the individuals and institutions who support us, are an extremely loyal group, seeing the wisdom of this aggregate service model. They are, in an integral way, a part of this community we build each day at Continuum."

The center was designed by Lisa Bruce of Herman Stoller Collier Architects and combines strong design elements of curves which complement and play with the building's angularity. Light is suffused throughout the building, and the Memorial Area, where past Continuum members are honored, is emboldened with a shaft of light, lending an evocative air to this potent space. The integrity of the building's classical architecture, built in 1916, was maintained, while creating a state-of-the-art clinic and home for Continuum's services.

Continuum holds several contracts with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, as well as with the state of California. A Medi-Cal reimbursable agency, Continuum has an annual budget of \$1.5 million, \$500,000 of which comes from private fundraising. Glenn said the need for services has grown over the years.

In conjunction with the increased need for services, Continuum expanded its services this year, and has incorporated a nursing care management program for its frailest clients. Additionally, the agency has launched Tenderloin Care (TLC), a Ryan White CARE Act-funded program that takes nurses and social workers out into the community. TLC is a collaborative effort with the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC) and the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Project. Workers go into the streets, parks, and bars of the Tenderloin, to provide services to clients. ▼

The ribbon-cutting is at noon, with grand opening festivities continuing until 2 p.m. Info, call (415) 241-5512.

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Regent House HIV housing project opens in East Bay

Dedication refocuses on Berkeley's AIDS housing deficit

by Vicky Kolakowski

Berkeley's first city-funded housing project dedicated for people living with AIDS celebrated its grand opening on Friday, September 12th. Regent House was built by Resources for Community Development (RCD) as part of its East Bay AIDS Housing Initiative. Actual operation of the six-unit housing development will be managed by Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS). Both RCD executive director Jack Gardner and BOSS executive director boona cheema spoke at the event.

Regent House is a rehabilitated Colonial Revival house in the south campus area near Telegraph Avenue and People's Park. In addition to a full kitchen and laundry facilities, it includes two

fully accessible bedrooms on the ground floor, as well as four non-accessible units on the second floor. Residents are formerly homeless, and pay 30 percent of their incomes for rent.

The Regent House project was partly funded with money from the Berkeley city council and from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Supportive Housing Program that was originally earmarked for the proposed Rose House project. Rose House, located in a more upscale North Berkeley neighborhood, had been rejected by the Berkeley city council in August 1995 after strong neighborhood opposition.

Openly gay Berkeley city councilmember Kriss Worthington, who represents the south Berkeley district surrounding Regent House, praised RCD for

learning from the Rose House controversy and building widespread neighborhood support for the project.

Berkeley mayor Shirley Dean noted that the controversy over the Rose House proposal, which she had opposed, led to her appointment of a special task force on AIDS housing. The Berkeley city council has since enacted several of that task force's recommendations, including providing housing subsidies for people living with AIDS.

The task force's 1996 report estimated that 161 Berkeley residents were living with AIDS and that 1,000 were HIV-positive. Speakers at the Regent House opening stressed that six units were simply insufficient to meet the growing need for affordable housing in Berkeley.

Longtime progressive activist Anna de Leon has designated the reopening celebration of her restaurant "Anna's" as a fundraiser for housing for people living with HIV and AIDS. The event, to be hosted by de Leon and BOSS on Saturday, October 4th from 2 to 5 p.m.,

will benefit Affordable Housing Associates, BOSS, and RCD. ▼

The October 4 AIDS housing fundraiser will be at Anna's, located at 1801 University Avenue (at Grant Street) in Berkeley. A donation of \$10 and up is suggested. For more information and to RSVP (requested), call (510) 649-1930.



HPPC seeks new members; October 15 is deadline

by Cynthia Laird

The HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC), a 37-member body that sets priorities for the allocation of funds to support HIV prevention programs in San Francisco, is again seeking nominations for membership. Appointments will be for a full 24-month term beginning January 1, 1998, with a two-month provisional period from November through December, 1997. The deadline to submit nomination forms is Wednesday, October 15.

The council is seeking nominees who have prior experience in HIV prevention and represent the following groups: various communities of color, particularly African-Americans and Asian Pacific-Islanders; people who are HIV-positive; behavioral scientists; transgendered people; and youth. Councilmembers must live or work in San Francisco.

For the average councilmember, appointment to the HPPC entails a commitment of approximately eight to 10 hours per month. HPPC meetings are usually held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 3 to 6 p.m. Additionally, all members are expected to participate in at least one committee meeting per month. These meetings are usually two to three hours long. Staff in the city's Department of Public Health (DPH) AIDS Office, who provide support to the council, emphasize that it's important nominees understand this time commitment before agreeing to be nominated.

People who are interested and who meet the above qualifications may submit a nomination form. ▼

Forms are available from the AIDS Office, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102, or by calling (415) 554-9499.

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resistance and changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)


People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is mild to moderate diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But we can tell you that yesterday's HIV beliefs are quickly becoming today's myths.

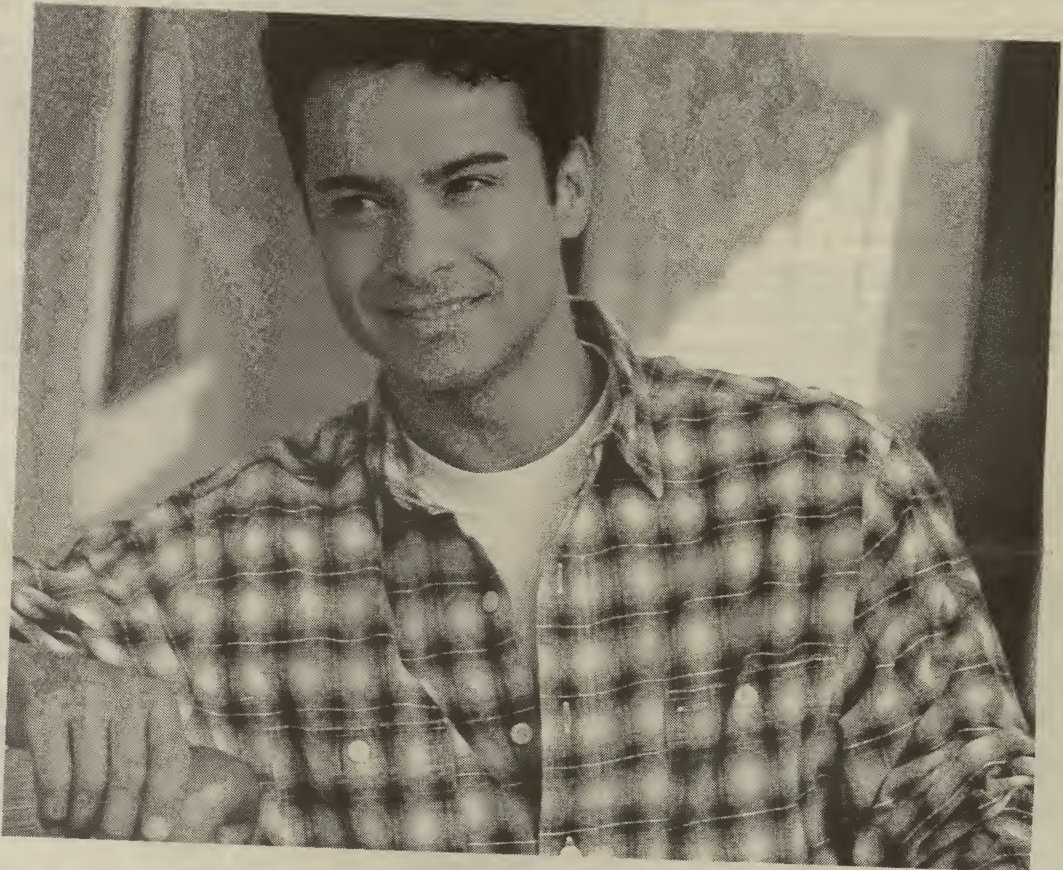
Talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT, and begin to consider something new. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate

Refer to the important information on the next page.


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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

TABLETS and ORAL POWDER

BRIEF SUMMARY: For complete prescribing information, see package insert.

VIRACEPT is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when antiretroviral therapy is warranted. This indication is based on surrogate marker changes in patients who received VIRACEPT in combination with nucleoside analogues or alone for up to 24 weeks. At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of therapy with VIRACEPT on clinical progression of HIV infection, such as survival or the incidence of opportunistic infections.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

VIRACEPT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of its components.

WARNING

Patients with Phenylketonuria: VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains 11.2 mg phenylalanine per gram of powder.

VIRACEPT should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, triazolam or midazolam, because competition for CYP3A by nelfinavir could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias or prolonged sedation.

PRECAUTIONS

General

Nelfinavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering this drug to patients with hepatic impairment.

Resistance/Cross Resistance: Because the potential for HIV cross resistance between protease inhibitors has not been fully explored, it is unknown what effect nelfinavir therapy will have on the activity of subsequently administered protease inhibitors. (See MICROBIOLOGY in complete prescribing information.)

Hemophilia

There have been reports of increased bleeding, including spontaneous skin hematomas and hemarthrosis, in patients with hemophilia type A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients, additional factor VIII was given. In more than half of the reported cases, treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or reintroduced. A causal relationship has not been established.

Information for Patients

For optimal absorption, patients should be advised to take VIRACEPT with food. (See Pharmacokinetics and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Patients should be informed that VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections.

Patients should be told that the long-term effects of VIRACEPT are unknown at this time. They should be told that there is currently no data demonstrating that VIRACEPT therapy can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be advised to take VIRACEPT every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue therapy without consulting with their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the dose as soon as possible and then return to their normal schedule. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

The most frequent adverse event associated with VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with non-prescription drugs, such as loperamide, which slow gastrointestinal motility.

VIRACEPT may interact with some drugs, therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other prescription or non-prescription medication.

Patients receiving oral contraceptives should be instructed that alternate or additional contraceptive measures should be used during therapy with VIRACEPT.

Drug Interactions

Nelfinavir is an inhibitor of CYP3A (cytochrome P450 3A). Coadministration of VIRACEPT and drugs primarily metabolized by CYP3A may result in increased plasma concentrations of the other drug that could increase or prolong both its therapeutic and adverse effects. Nelfinavir is metabolized in part by CYP3A. Coadministration of VIRACEPT and drugs that induce CYP3A may decrease nelfinavir plasma concentrations and reduce its therapeutic effect. Coadministration of VIRACEPT and drugs that inhibit CYP3A may increase nelfinavir plasma concentrations.

Based on known metabolic profiles, clinically significant drug interactions are not expected between VIRACEPT and dapsone, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, clarithromycin, azithromycin, erythromycin, itraconazole or fluconazole.

Antihistamines

Terfenadine: Administration of terfenadine with VIRACEPT resulted in the appearance of unchanged terfenadine in plasma; therefore, VIRACEPT should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. Because a similar interaction is likely, VIRACEPT should also not be administered concurrently with *astemizole*.

Anti-HIV protease inhibitors

Indinavir: Coadministration of indinavir with VIRACEPT resulted in an 83% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 51% increase in indinavir plasma AUC. The safety of this combination has not been established.

Ritonavir: Coadministration of ritonavir with VIRACEPT resulted in a 152% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and very little change in ritonavir plasma AUC. The safety of this combination has not been established.

Saquinavir: Coadministration of saquinavir with VIRACEPT resulted in an 18% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 392% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. If used in combination, no dose adjustments are needed.

Antifungal agents

Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole with VIRACEPT resulted in a 35% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC. This change was not considered clinically significant and no dose adjustment is needed when ketoconazole and VIRACEPT are coadministered.

Anti-HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors

Didanosine: It is recommended that didanosine be administered on an empty stomach; therefore, nelfinavir should be administered (with food) one hour after or more than two hours before didanosine.

Zidovudine: Coadministration of zidovudine and lamivudine with VIRACEPT resulted in a 35% decrease in zidovudine plasma AUC. A dose adjustment is not needed when zidovudine is administered with VIRACEPT.

Little or no change in the pharmacokinetics of either drug was observed when VIRACEPT was coadministered with *lamivudine* or *stavudine*.

Antimycobacterial agents

Rifabutin: Coadministration of rifabutin and VIRACEPT resulted in a 32% decrease in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 207% increase in rifabutin plasma AUC. It is recommended that the dose of rifabutin be reduced to one-half the usual dose when administered with VIRACEPT.

Rifampin: Coadministration of rifampin and VIRACEPT resulted in an 82% decrease in nelfinavir plasma AUC. VIRACEPT and rifampin should not be coadministered.

Oral Contraceptives

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone: Coadministration of VIRACEPT with OVCON-35 resulted in a 47% decrease in ethinyl estradiol and an 18% decrease in norethindrone plasma concentrations. Alternate or additional contraceptive measures should be used during therapy with VIRACEPT.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Carcinogenicity studies in animals have not yet been completed. Nelfinavir was not, however, mutagenic or clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests including microbial mutagenesis (Ames), mouse lymphoma, chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes, and an *in vivo* rat micronucleus assay.

Pregnancy, Fertility and Reproduction - Pregnancy Category B

Comparisons of systemic exposure are based on the steady-state area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC) observed in humans receiving the recommended therapeutic dose. Nelfinavir produced no effects on either male or female mating and fertility or embryo survival in rat studies at exposures comparable to human therapeutic exposure. There were also no effects on fetal development or maternal toxicity when nelfinavir was administered to pregnant rats at systemic exposures comparable to human exposure. Administration of nelfinavir to pregnant rabbits resulted in no fetal development effects up to a dose at which a slight decrease in maternal body weight was observed; however, even at the highest dose evaluated, systemic exposure in rabbits was significantly lower than human exposure. Additional studies in rats indicated that exposure to nelfinavir in females from mid-pregnancy through lactation had no effect on the survival, growth, and development of the offspring to weaning. Subsequent reproductive performance of these offspring was also not affected by maternal exposure to nelfinavir. However, there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, VIRACEPT should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not yet be infected. Studies in lactating rats have demonstrated that nelfinavir is excreted in milk. It is not known whether nelfinavir is excreted in human milk.

Pediatric Use

Nelfinavir was studied in one open-label, uncontrolled trial in 38 pediatric patients ranging in age from 2 to 13 years. In order to achieve plasma concentrations in pediatric patients which approximate those observed in adults, the recommended pediatric dose is 20-30 mg/kg given three times daily, not to exceed 750 mg three times a day. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

A similar adverse event profile was seen during the pediatric clinical trial as in adult patients. The evaluation of the antiviral activity of nelfinavir in pediatric patients is ongoing.

The safety, effectiveness and pharmacokinetics of nelfinavir have not been evaluated in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety of VIRACEPT was studied in over 1500 patients who received drug either alone or in combination with nucleoside analogues (d4T or ZDV/3TC). The majority of adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported adverse event among patients receiving VIRACEPT was diarrhea, which was generally of mild to moderate intensity.

Drug-related clinical adverse experiences of moderate or severe intensity in $\geq 2\%$ of patients treated with VIRACEPT coadministered with ZDV plus 3TC (Study 511) or in combination with d4T (Study 506) for up to 24 weeks are presented in Table 1.

Table 1—Percentage of Patients with Treatment-Emergent¹ Adverse Events of Moderate or Severe Intensity Reported in $\geq 2\%$ of Patients

Adverse Events	Study 511 Naïve Patients			Study 506 Experienced Patients		
	Placebo + ZDV/3TC (n=101)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=97)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=100)	Placebo + d4T (n=109)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=98)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=101)
Body as a Whole						
Abdominal Pain	1%	0	0	3%	2%	4%
Asthenia	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%
Digestive System						
Diarrhea	3%	14%	20%	10%	28%	32%
Nausea	4%	3%	7%	1%	3%	2%
Flatulence	0	5%	2%	4%	8%	3%
Skin/Appendages						
Rash	1%	1%	3%	0	4%	3%

¹ Includes those adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown relationship and excludes concurrent HIV conditions

Adverse events occurring in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT in all phase II/III clinical trials and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate severity are listed below.

Body as a Whole: accidental injury, allergic reaction, back pain, fever, headache, malaise, and pain.

Digestive System: anorexia, dyspepsia, epigastric pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, hepatitis, mouth ulceration, pancreatitis and vomiting.

Hemic/Lymphatic System: anemia, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia.

Metabolic/Nutritional System: increases in alkaline phosphatase, amylase, creatine phosphokinase, lactic dehydrogenase, SGOT, SGPT and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase; hyperlipemia, hyperuricemia, hypoglycemia, dehydration, and liver function tests abnormal.

Musculoskeletal System: arthralgia, arthritis, cramps, myalgia, myasthenia and myopathy.

Nervous System: anxiety, depression, dizziness, emotional lability, hyperkinesia, insomnia, migraine, paresthesia, seizures, sleep disorder, somnolence and suicide ideation.

Respiratory System: dyspnea, pharyngitis, rhinitis, and sinusitis.

Skin/Appendages: dermatitis, folliculitis, fungal dermatitis, maculopapular rash, pruritus, sweating, and urticaria.

Special Senses: acute iritis and eye disorder.

Urogenital System: kidney calculus, sexual dysfunction and urine abnormality.

Laboratory Abnormalities

Few patients experienced significant laboratory abnormalities while receiving VIRACEPT. The percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in Studies 511 and 506 are presented in Table 2. Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a Grade 3 or 4 abnormality in a patient with a normal baseline value or a Grade 4 abnormality in a patient with a Grade 1 abnormality at baseline.

Table 2—Percentage of Patients by Treatment Group With Marked Laboratory Abnormalities¹ in $>2\%$ of Patients

	Study 511 Naïve Patients			Study 506 Experienced Patients		
	Placebo + ZDV/3TC (n=101)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=97)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=100)	Placebo + d4T (n=109)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=98)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=101)
Hematology						
Hemoglobin	6%	3%	2%	0	0	0
Neutrophils	4%	3%	5%	1%	1%	4%
Lymphocytes	1%	6%	1%	1%	1%	0
Chemistry						
ALT (SGPT)	6%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%
AST (SGOT)	4%	1%	0	0	3%	3%
Creatine Kinase	7%	2%	2%	4%	5%	6%

¹ Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a shift from Grade 0 at baseline to at least Grade 3 or from Grade 1 to Grade 4

OVERDOSAGE

Human experience of acute overdose with VIRACEPT is limited. There is no specific antidote for overdose with VIRACEPT. If indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug should be achieved by emesis or gastric lavage. Administration of activated charcoal may also be used to aid removal of unabsorbed drug. Since nelfinavir is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to significantly remove drug from blood.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Adults: The recommended dose is 750 mg (three 250 mg tablets) three times daily. VIRACEPT should be taken with a meal or light snack. Antiviral activity of VIRACEPT is enhanced when VIRACEPT is administered in combination with nucleoside analogues. Therefore, it is recommended that VIRACEPT be used in combination with nucleoside analogues.

Pediatric Patients (2-13 years): The recommended oral dose of VIRACEPT for pediatric patients 2 to 13 years of age is 20-30 mg/kg per dose, three times daily with a meal or a light snack. (See complete prescribing information for dosage table.) For children unable to take tablets, VIRACEPT Oral Powder may be administered. VIRACEPT Oral Powder should not be reconstituted with water in its original container.

HOW SUPPLIED

VIRACEPT (nelfinavir mesylate) Tablets, 250 mg are light blue, capsule-shaped tablets engraved with "VIRACEPT" on one side and "250 mg" on the other.

Available as:

ND 63010-010-27, bottle containing 270 tablets

VIRACEPT (nelfinavir mesylate) Oral Powder, 50 mg/g is an off-white powder containing 50 mg (as nelfinavir free base) in each level scoopful (1 gram).

Available as:

ND 63010-011-90, multiple use bottle containing 144 grams of powder with scoop.

VIRACEPT Tablets and Oral Powder should be stored at 15° to 30° C (59° to 86° F).

Issued 3/14/97

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Regents backflip: No DPs at UC yet

by Helen Vozenile

Same-sex domestic partner benefits for employees of the University of California (UC) system almost became a reality this week — until a decision reached at a controversial closed-door meeting of the UC Board of Regents halted the plans.

The Regents agreed in an open public session Thursday, September 18 to let UC President Richard Atkinson proceed with his domestic partnership plans, then held a closed meeting and changed their minds. Following the expressed desire of California Governor Pete Wilson, Chairman Tirso del Junco announced to the now-empty auditorium that the Regents would vote on the matter in November.

Organizers were interrupted at a celebration dinner with the news.

"This is an outrageous deed and possibly a violation of the Brown Act," said Jonathan Winters, co-chair of the UC Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Association, referring to the state law requiring all policy decisions to be made in public. Winters, a maintenance worker at UC Berkeley, had spent the past three years working to get the University to adopt domestic partnership benefits.

"This is another example of the conservative element in the Regents delaying the wishes of the majority," said Nancy Stoller, professor of sociology at UC

Santa Cruz and a chief organizer with the group. "Now the whole process has been delayed."

Atkinson's plan to extend health benefits to all same-sex domestic partners, and to allow individual chancellors to broaden family housing eligibility to include same-sex couples, would have gone into effect by January 1998.

Most of the Regents speaking publicly Thursday voiced their support for domestic partnership. Among the most eloquent was Ward Connerly, a long-time ally of Wilson and chief architect of the proposal to eliminate affirmative action.

"There comes a time when principle matters more than anything else. I say act now because it is the right thing to do," said Connerly. "Every day that we delay we are saying to someone your circumstances don't really matter that much."

For others, the extension of health benefits was more a matter of business than fairness and human rights.

"To me, it's a business issue. It's remaining competitive," said Alumni Regent Charles Soderquist. "It's our responsibility to see that our universities attract the best faculty we can. We can't do that if we offer them less than the rest of the world does."

Other comments like those of Regent Sue Johnson, that "I'm not really familiar with the issues and need more time to consider the matter," brought audible groans from the auditorium.

Since 1994, supporters have been pressing Atkinson and the Regents to develop a domestic partners policy for the UC system. Organizers had hoped to avoid putting the issue before a Regent vote.

The UC system covers nine campuses with 136,000 employees. Six of Berkeley's eight comparison universities offer benefits to same-sex couples. Many fear that UC's failure to offer comparable benefits will result in a downgrading of UC's world-class status. The additional cost of providing the same-sex benefits are estimated at \$1.9-\$5.6 million out of the total \$400 million spent on health benefits.

While supporters throughout the state were disappointed by the Regents' inaction, they were not disheartened. "This is very frustrating," Stoller said, "but we have the momentum. Eventually we will win equal rights for all UC employees."

The Regents meeting to discuss the issue further will take place at the University of California Los Angeles on November 20-21. ▼

More info about the struggle to obtain domestic partner benefits can be obtained from Jonathan Winters at jjwinters@uclink2.berkeley.edu



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SF DP law is overwhelming HRC; supes propose waivers

by Cynthia Laird

Since June 1, when the city's landmark domestic partner benefits law went into effect, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) has been inundated with applications from contractors seeking to comply with the ordinance. In an effort to streamline the administrative procedure, San Francisco's three openly gay supervisors introduced amendments that would give department heads the authority to request waivers from the law. The amendments were introduced at the Monday, September 22 board meeting. However, some gay rights activists are concerned they would water down the law, and have requested any waivers have a six-month limit.

The amendments, which Supervisor Leslie Katz says are still being fine-tuned, are expected to go to the board's Finance Committee before the full board votes on them sometime next month. The city's law requires businesses contracting with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees when they offer those benefits to spouses.

Under Katz's draft proposal, which was co-sponsored by Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Susan Leal, department heads could allow waivers when they determine the law would result in a financial loss to the city, or the department head determines there are no qualified bidders that comply with the ordinance. The amendments also

require department heads to report any waivers to the HRC and still give the supervisors authority over department heads in the event they abuse the waiver process, Katz said.

"We're working to make sure the city can conduct business and uncover the sham contractors who aren't necessarily violating the letter of the law, but are certainly violating the spirit," Katz told the B.A.R.

Jeff Sheehy, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian Gay Bisexual Democratic Club, said he's unhappy with the changes.

"We believe it seriously guts the legislation," Sheehy told the B.A.R., adding he's spoken with the three supervisors about the possibility of adding a six-month time limit. The mayor's office is currently opposed to that idea, he added.

Katz said the amendments won't make the law weaker. "We're committed to ensuring that the ordinance remains strong."

Katz said the fact that HRC is overwhelmed with requests from businesses shows the law is effective and maintains that the board is simply trying to make government more efficient. The issue of a backlog surfaced recently when it was reported the San Francisco 49ers were having trouble purchasing toilet paper for its games because their supplier did not comply with the law. Additionally, it was reported that Federal Express is considering moving from San Francisco because it does not want to comply with the law. ▼

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Mandatory HIV reporting proposal prompts SF forum

by Dennis Conkin

A community forum to discuss recent controversial calls for mandatory federal HIV reporting will be held Wednesday, October 8 at 7 p.m. at Everett Middle School, located at 450 Church Street in the Castro district.

The forum is sponsored by Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Wellness Center, the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), Bay Positives, Health Initiatives For Youth, Project Inform, and other community groups.

Former San Francisco Department of Public Health Director Dr. Sandra Hernandez and other AIDS experts, community leaders, and activists will participate in the forum's panel discussion, and answer questions from the audience.

"Mandatory HIV names reporting represents a fundamental change in dealing with the epidemic," said Jeff Sheehy of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club. "It's an important civil rights issue, and there hasn't been any public input about such policy proposals, which are under review by the Centers for Disease Control officials and are part of legislative efforts by right-wing legislators."

A September 11 editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine* sparked activist ire when it

called for mandatory HIV names reporting as part of a four-component approach to responding to the epidemic.

The *NEJM* proposal also included recommendations for greater access to medications, improved access to expert medical care for people suffering from HIV, and protections of patients from violations of confidentiality and discrimination because of their HIV status.

The *NEJM* editorial said that estimates of the number of people with HIV infection around the country range from 650,000 to 900,000 individuals.

Fear is still deterrent

Eileen Hansen, ALRP's public policy director, said that the legal referral group was "profoundly disappointed" by calls for mandatory names reporting and said that the practice was not needed in order to obtain accurate statistical reporting about the number of people with HIV infection.

"The HIV/AIDS community has had a long history of opposition to HIV names reporting, with good reason," said Hansen.

"It's an old but still accurate argument," she told the *B.A.R.* "If people don't get tested out of fear of their name being reported to health authorities and out of fear of the discrimination that still occurs due to HIV status — and studies show that is the case — then how exactly are we protect-

ing the public health and who exactly will be accessing treatment?"

Although California does not require that new cases of HIV be reported to health authorities, 32 states do currently require such reporting, and some form of partner and sexual contact notification. All states currently require that cases of AIDS be reported.

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association echoed Hansen's concerns.

"GLMA has been on record now for more than ten years as being opposed to mandatory names reporting as a public health measure," said Marj Plumb, the group's public policy director.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation spokesman Derek Gordon said the foundation was also opposed to mandatory names reporting.

"Like the *New England Journal of Medicine*, we agree that people should get tested to know their HIV status to make sure that they have every opportunity for early treatment and care of HIV."

However, Gordon said, the foundation did not believe names should be reported. Noting that some states do not provide state-of-the-art AIDS drug treatments — and in fact have treatment lotteries for infected residents, he asked, "Why report names and track down contacts if you can't provide people with meaningful treatments for HIV?" ▼

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WEDNESDAYS 5:45 PM - 8:30 PM

■ Maxine Hall Health Center 1301 Pierce Street

*ANONYMOUS TESTING

MONDAYS 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

■ South of Market Health Center 551 Minna Street

*ANONYMOUS TESTING

THURSDAYS 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

■ Drop-In

(NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY)

TUESDAYS 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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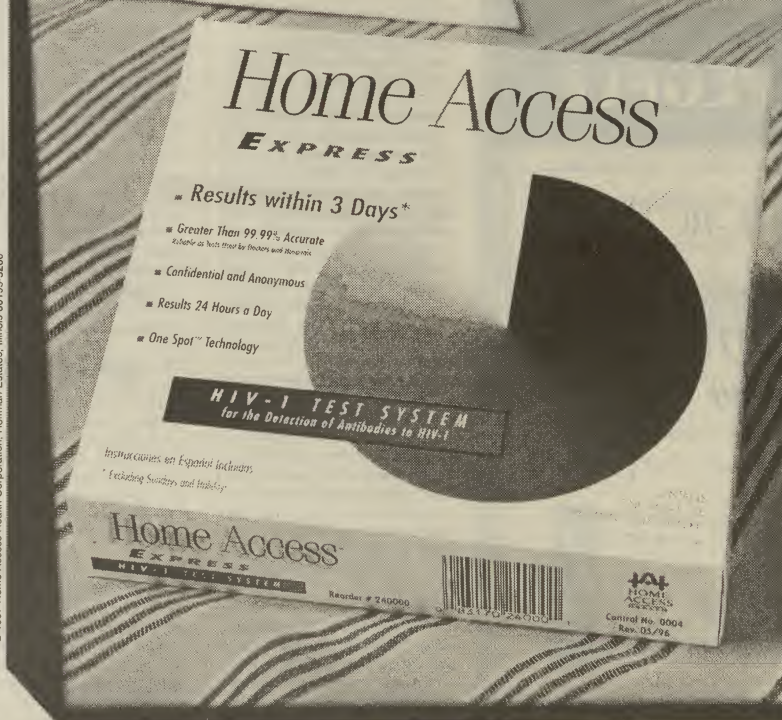
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Leather Week

◀ page 1

never rained at the Folsom Street Fair. Last year, the temperature was not as warm as usual, but it wasn't chilly, either. Forecasts for this Sunday seem to indicate perfect weather ahead.

The late Michael Valerio, founder of the Folsom Street Fair, must be looking down in sheer delight at the growth of his dream, one that captured the leather world's undivided attention in 1983.

If, as they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, it is flattering to know that New York City's leather community began their own version of this event with the first Folsom Street East celebration earlier this year. From all reports, for a first-time effort, it was a success, even though the merriment was marred by a sudden, albeit brief, thunderstorm. Revelers came back out when the rain passed, and it is reasonable to assume there will be a second such soiree in the Big Apple.

The board of directors of SMMILE (South of Market Merchants and Individuals Lifestyle Events) has been hard at work planning this Sunday's event, which features over 200 booths dispensing merchandise, food, beverages and propaganda/information, including spanking booths and fetish outlets. Two entertainment stages and a dance area will spotlight local and out-of-town musical talent.

Last year, SMMILE distributed some \$95,000 to various charitable organizations, and a gate fee introduced in 1996 met no major opposition or criticism. A sticker affixed to your person ensures bargain beverage prices.

When all expenses are paid and a final accounting is made, the beneficiaries are publicly presented with checks from the board of directors of SMMILE. Hopefully, this year's recipients will reap the bounty of your generosity.

Besides all the action on Folsom Street, here are other events that might prove of interest to visitors and locals alike!

Thursday, September 25

Over 50 customers/friends of the Montrose Inn in Houston will be at Daddy's from 3 to 5 p.m. for a welcoming party. If you want to find out if it's true what they say about Texans, now's your chance!

Leather Daddies of San Francisco's second annual art auction will be at the SF-Eagle at 8 p.m., with a \$6 beer bust and art auctioned off from Leon of SF, the Tom of Finland Foundation, and others.

All 12 Mr. Drummer contestants will bring a basket of goodies from their respective regions to the Powerhouse tonight at 8 p.m., and they (the baskets) will be auctioned off beginning at 9. This basket bonanza benefits the travel fund of this year's Intl. Mr. Drummer winner. Outgoing IMD Kyle Brandon hosts the event, with auctioneers and lots of great stuff!

"Bears in Boxers" party at the Lone Star Saloon, 7-11 p.m. Hosted by Mr. Lone Star Dave Rape and Mr. SF Bear Bill Adams. Only \$6 if you're dressed "appropriately"; otherwise, it's \$8 for the beer/soda bust. Boxer shorts on sale upstairs at the Lone Star. It's a benefit for the GodFather Service Fund and the Mr. SF Bear Contest in November.

Friday, September 26

Omar Moseley and Graylin Thornton host a reception for

Onyx Leathermen of Chicago; Highwaymen TNT of Washington, DC; and the Icons of Detroit at Daddy's, 5-8 p.m., with special guests IMsL Genelle Moore, Intl. Mr. Fantasy Ariq Robinson, and Intl. Mr. Deaf Leather Patrick Richardson. Beer bust, raffles, and auction will benefit New Village (formerly the Brothers Network), the HIV support service for people of color.

Northern California Leather Association for the Deaf presents "The Drummer Last Supper" at the SF-Eagle, 8-11 p.m., with a beer bust and dinner. It's a roast "honoring" Intl. Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon and Intl. Drummer Boy Mike Denisco. IMsL Genelle Moore and IMDL Patrick Richardson emcee the extravaganza, which includes fantasies, slave auction, raffles for prizes, etc. This event benefits Communications Access Network, AIDS Emergency Fund, and NCLAD.

The SF Rubber Corps hosts the Leather & Rubber Fetish Party, 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., \$8 donation at the door. For location, call (415) 552-7975 on the day of the event only! Or e-mail to: RbbrCorps@aol.com.

The fabulous Fetish & Fantasy Ball at 177 Townsend (at Third) kicks off at 9 p.m. and goes to four the next morning. Tickets are \$12 advance/\$15 door and are available at Mr. S Leathers (both locations) and at Daddy's. Charge to Visa, MC or AmEx by calling 974-6020 (press two). Complimentary shuttle bus service from Daddy's to the Eagle to 177 Townsend is courtesy of Scenic Highway Tours.

Saturday, September 27

Rubber Corps beer bust at Daddy's from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a \$7 cover plus entertainment. For info, e-mail to: RbbrCorps@aol.com.

International Mr. Drummer contest and finals at Club Townsend, 177 Townsend. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. The show and contest start promptly at 3. Exactly one dozen contestants from 11 U.S. regions and one from Europe (Paris) will compete for the IMD title, and five boys will compete for the Intl. Drummer Boy title. A victory party immediately follows the contest at Daddy's.

The 15 Association's \$15 leather pride play party from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; doors open from 9 to 11 p.m. only. BYOB, guests must arrive with members. Trim, shave and buzz-cut station open. Call 673-0452 for invitation and location.

"Magnitude," the Black Party and the official pre-FSF party, at 620 7th Street (at Brannan), 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The VIP tix are \$100. General admission: \$25 advance/\$30 door. This event benefits The Names Project.

"Short Circuit," the after-hours party following "Magnitude," is at 715 Harrison (at Third), from 4-11 a.m. Sunday. For tickets to both events, call 1-800-494-8497 (\$15 advance/\$20 door for Short Circuit).

Sunday, September 28

The 14th Annual Folsom Street Fair, "Indulge," is on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Over 200 vendors, entertainment stages on 7th and 12th streets, plus a dance area on 10th Street. Be sure to catch that dynamic rock group, Blue Period, on the 7th Street stage at 2:15 p.m., followed by an introduction of all the leather title-holders in town by Gary Virginia.

Mark I. Chester's Sexart 5 show is open all day at 1229 Fol-

next page ▶

Most schools rated failure for gay kids

by Bob Roeher

When it comes to gay and lesbian students, according to a "report card" issued by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), most of the nation's schools failed. Using even the most lax criteria, most schools do not protect gay students from verbal and even physical harassment. The report, issued September 18 in Washington, is slated to become an annual rating.

GLSEN executive director Kevin Jennings said the organization chose seven objective criteria, such as whether or not a school system has a written non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation, and whether it conducts sensitivity training on that subject. He said the snapshot they took isn't pretty. "If New York

City is getting a C, you can imagine what Mississippi is getting."

"Children will live up to the expectations we set for them," he said. If teachers stand by and allow gay students to be harassed, "it sends a very clear message: You do not matter to me."

That is the message too many of the estimated five million gay kids get in school every day. Assaults are on the rise. One in six will be beaten so badly that they will have to see a doctor. Twenty-six percent will drop out of high school.

Jennings sees a written policy of non-discrimination as a necessary first step to changing these numbers. He wants sexual orientation treated the same as racial, religious, or sexual harassment.

But what it really comes down to is "whether or not the administrators and teachers in that system have the courage to do the right

thing." Thus the "most horrifying" statistic for him comes from a survey in liberal Massachusetts, where 53 percent of students surveyed said they had heard their teachers using anti-gay slurs.

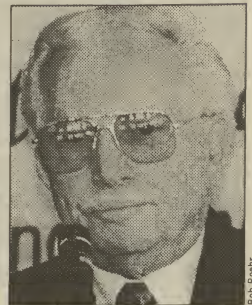
The 'In & Out' teacher

Rawley Farnsworth also participated in the news conference. He is the retired teacher whom Tom Hanks "outed" with praise during his Oscar acceptance speech for Best Actor in the movie *Philadelphia*. That incident inspired the new movie *In & Out*.

He said that when he was teaching, very few teachers were out in the classroom. "We just didn't do it," often for fear of losing their job. After Hanks's speech, Farnsworth asked some of his former students if they knew he was gay. "We didn't worry about your sexuality," came one response. "We worried about

ours."

Education policy is set at the local level, so the problem must be resolved in each city and town through citizen involvement. Jennings sees the growing lesbian and gay baby boom and those parents' increased role in schools as an encouraging long-term factor for making them safer and more humane for all students. ▼



Rawley Farnsworth

GLSEN has chapters across the nation. Its national headquarters can be reached at (212) 727-0135, or www.glsen.org.

Survey shows about half of all Americans support gay teachers

PRNewswire

The Rockport Company, a subsidiary of the Reebok shoe empire, has unveiled the results of its "Rockport Comfort Barometer," a national survey that examines American's comfort level on topical issues, including how they feel about gay educators.

One of the questions was, "How comfortable are you having your children taught by an openly gay teacher?" The collected information coincided with the release of — and substantially validated the premise of — Paramount Pictures' new comedy *In & Out*, in which Kevin Kline stars as a small-town teacher who is outed by a former student.

According to the survey, distributed in conjunction with the well-known Roper Starch polling organization, there is no consensus on how Americans feel about gays in the classroom. One thousand respondents were interviewed by telephone, and were found to be almost equally split in their comfort level in having their child taught by an openly gay teacher, with 44% comfortable with the concept and 47% un-

comfortable.

One of the more striking demographic dividers is gender. Interestingly, 38% of the men were comfortable as opposed to 53% who were uncomfortable, and 51% of women were comfortable while 42% were uncomfortable. On issues that demand either a rational or an emotional response, the women appear more likely to choose the latter. Although men are more comfortable with most of the other issues presented, the gay issue is the only area where women are more comfortable. The gender result alone suggests very high homophobic tendencies in men.

Another major source of difference is the geographic region in which people live. Despite the increasingly homogeneous and networked nature of America, many regional attitudes are still quite distinct. In the Northeast, 55% of the people were comfortable; in the Midwest, 42% were comfortable; in the South, 36% were comfortable; and in the West, 52% were comfortable having their children taught by an openly gay teacher. Probably the nation's lowest per capita gay and lesbian populations are in the Midwest and

South. Interestingly, according to Iconoculture, a think tank group of cultural anthropologists, 10 to 18 million people are currently "out" in the United States, with only 11 states that have laws protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination in the workplace, housing and public accommodations. ▼

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- QUEST Clinical Research
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Anna Dowling, RN (415) 202-3981

CMV

For more information, call:
AIDS Clinical Trials Information Service
1-800-TRIALS-A
All calls are confidential.

Leather Week

◀ previous page

som (upstairs), and the Bare Chest Calendar guys will be signing the 1998 South of Market calendar, benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund. Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy will be at the Drummer Booth.

Giant dance parties after the fair include the official "After-Folsom Street Fair Party" at Club Townsend, and the "Sexball" after-fair dance party at 715 Harrison (at Third) from 6 p.m. to sunrise. It will have a DJ from the famous London dance club Trade, plus live performers from London, New York, and San Francisco. Stop AIDS Project is a beneficiary. Call 905-8888 for tickets (\$25), or buy them at A Different Light on Castro Street.

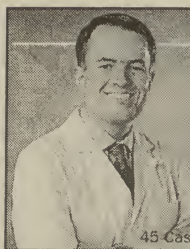
Special events

The Sling features three nights

of fun and debauchery: Thursday, September 25, Cigar Party, 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., \$12; Friday, September 26, Fisting Night, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. (ends at 6 a.m.), \$15; Saturday, September 27, Water Sports Night, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. (water flows until 4 a.m.), \$12.

Leon, the official portrait artist for Intl. Mr. Leather and The 15 Association, opens his studio at 4623 18th Street on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 25-27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with male erotic leather-themed drawings, prints and cards. Not to be missed!

Finally, when the weekend is a memory, the Grass Roots Gay Rights (GRGR West) will present "Resurgence" at 1015 Folsom, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday. Tickets are \$15 advance/\$20 door, available at Undercover (535 Castro), and benefit the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP). Your support is appreciated. ▼



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Rallies, demos next Saturday at two state women's prisons

by Cynthia Laird

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Supporters of women prisoners fighting against medical neglect will carpool from the Bay Area to the Central Valley for rallies and demonstrations at California's two largest women's correctional facilities next Saturday, October 4. The event will recognize the recent out-of-court settlement of *Shumate v. Wilson*, a lawsuit brought against the state by women at the two prisons. Demonstrators will demand the state Department of Corrections (CDC) fully comply with several medical care issues addressed in the August 11 settlement.

The California Coalition for Women Prisoners is sponsoring the event, encouraging people to "support the fight of women prisoners against medical neglect and torture." They argue that unless supporters pressure the CDC to abide by the lawsuit's settlement terms, nothing will change.

Judy Greenspan and Karen Shain, coalition spokespersons, said the demonstrators will demand an end to any harassment against the women prisoners who were involved in the lawsuit. They said those inmates who are outspoken leaders and organizers of the legal fight are facing retaliation. Some have serious chronic medical problems like HIV, sickle cell anemia, and diabetes.

Nearly 5,000 women are not covered by the settlement, said

coalition members. Only one prison, the Central California Women's Facility, is currently covered under the settlement; rallies will be held there and at the state's newest prison, the Valley State Prison for Women. Both are in Chowchilla.

"We won part of the battle, but we are losing the war. Their [CDC's] attitudes are changing slowly for the better," stated Clarisse Shumate, prisoner spokesperson for the women inside. "The state still will not admit to their lack of knowledge of women's medical needs, their outright neglect that caused us to watch each other die behind these

walls, who were not sentenced to death by a judge. But our death is on the hands of those who want to put on a Band-Aid cure and call it adequate care."

Carpools will leave at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Safeway located at Church and Market streets in the city; in the East Bay, carpools will depart from the MacArthur BART Station. ▼

The rallies and demonstrations start at noon in front of the Chowchilla prisons. For rides and additional information, call (415) 255-7036, ext. 4; or (510) 834-5656, ext. 3150.

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When: 7-8:30 pm, Tuesday, September 30, 1997

Where: Golden Gate MCC
1508 Church Street, San Francisco
(between 27th & Duncan)

LA group releases first HIV treatment guide for women

PRNewswire

Women Alive, a Los Angeles-based national organization dedicated to women with HIV disease, released the first-ever women's comprehensive AIDS treatment guide, *Knowledge, Action, Health - A Woman's Guide to HIV Treatments*, on Friday, September 19.

"We must begin to make sense of confusing advice and missing data surrounding our HIV treatment choices," said Mary Lucey, co-founder of Women Alive. "Women have been neglected as HIV study participants and treatment decision-makers even though we represent the fastest-growing group of people being infected with HIV in the United States and throughout the world. We must turn the tide by arming ourselves with knowledge to live by."

AIDS is the third most common cause of death for American women ages 25-44, and the leading cause of death among African-American women in this age group. Between 1991 and 1995, 63,000 women have been diagnosed with AIDS. Women represent nearly 20% of the epidemic in the U.S. and comprise only 12% of study participants in clinical trials.

Women must carefully understand key concepts like efficacy, side effects, drug resistance, central nervous system penetration, cost, and life goals to assess the components of a treatment combination. *Knowledge, Action, Health* is written to equip women with the most up-to-date information possible, to enable them to actively and knowledgeably participate in making treatment decisions with a trusted physician.

The pocket-sized format is designed with action steps to encourage readers to organize and use information important to them. A "scorecard" helps readers evaluate potential combination therapies. Colorful illustrations,

charts and worksheets enable readers to better understand the various treatment options and monitor and analyze their CD4 counts, viral load tests, and side effects. A glossary helps make the booklet accessible for a diverse audience of readers.

"Little is known about the effects of these drugs on women because of underrepresentation in most clinical trials," said Judith Currier, M.D., M.S.C., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Southern California. "As physicians, we will expand our understanding of the effects and increase our knowledge about results in women through the patient-doctor partnership this guide can help create."

This treatment guide was made possible through an unrestricted educational grant from Pharmacia & Upjohn, sponsor of the first major study to look at women's particular responses to HIV treatment. "We are only beginning to tell the story about AIDS treatments for women," exclaimed Ms. Lucey. "The sad truth is that even if I were the richest HIV-positive woman in the world, with the best possible healthcare, and [Time magazine] Man of the Year, AIDS researcher David Ho as my doctor, I still wouldn't know how HIV medicines work in my body - and neither would he!"

Women Alive was founded in 1991 by and for women living with HIV/AIDS. It works to bring the most current information to HIV-positive women, help them monitor their results, communicate those to medical providers, and work to ensure the inclusion of more women in clinical trials. ▼

To attain a copy of *Knowledge, Action, Health - A Woman's Guide to HIV Treatments*, contact Women Alive, 1566 Burnside Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, 90019; phone (213) 965-1564; or fax (213) 965-9886.

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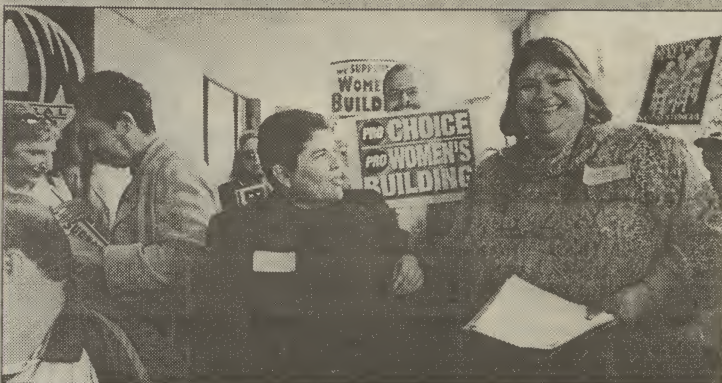
\$10 compensation per study visit is provided.

Women and Minorities encouraged to participate.

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Women's space



Women's Bldg. Director Esperanza Macias (center) and attorney Carole Cullum (right) were two of the many who turned out Sept. 23 at the Courthouse at 633 Folsom to support the Women's Bldg. lawsuit to remove the Dove Club from its premises. The Women's Building (at 18th Street and Laidge) seeks to remove the bar in order to build a childcare center in its place and so city-imposed seismic retrofitting can begin. The trial was scheduled to begin Sept. 24 in SF Municipal Court.

FDA seeks new rule for women in drug tests

UPI Science News

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has proposed a new rule to make sure women don't get bumped out of early drug trials for life-threatening diseases just because of reproductive issues.

The FDA announced a request Tuesday, September 23 for public comments on its proposal to prevent clinical trials for the most dangerous health problems from routinely excluding either women

—or men—just because of potential risks to reproductive organs or offspring.

The FDA announcement says "limited surveys" have turned up examples of such clinical trials that automatically weeded out women with reproductive potential.

The rule grows out of an FDA attitude that volunteers for clinical trials be given enough information about the potential risks to make their own decisions.

The move comes after the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and the National Task

Force on AIDS Drug Development highlighted the issue. The FDA announcement notes, "Many of the women who are affected by HIV and AIDS are young women with reproductive potential."

The FDA issued guidelines in 1993 to encourage women to join all phases for clinical trials. Its announcement says, "By encouraging diversity at all stages of a drug's development, FDA hopes that drug sponsors will generate better data about how the drug will affect the populations that will receive it once it is marketed." ▼

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This project made possible by Proposition 58 funds under grant P58-10056, with the California Department of Health Services.

CALIFORNIA LAVENDER SMOKEFREE PROJECT

12 arrests in DC needle exchange protest

Crowd chants, 'Arrest Shalala'

by Bob Roehr

How many more have to die before you lift the ban?" chanted the crowd as it surged across Independence Avenue to the headquarters of the Department of Health and Human Services. More than 500 protesters from across the nation gathered on Wednesday, September 17 to urge Secretary Donna Shalala to lift the ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs to curb the spread of HIV.

Banners fluttered and orange smoke swirled in the lingering summer heat. Mock tombstones held aloft listed the AIDS dead of each state who had become infected through dirty needles. And they bore a 12-foot-high "moral backbone" for the as-yet-spineless secretary and her president. The protesters seemed to reflect the demographics of the epidemic: about half were people of color.

"Syringe exchange is a bridge to recovery and a part of drug treatment," said Julie David. The ACT UP/Philadelphia member was one of the organizers of the event, sponsored by the National Coalition To Save Lives Now. "We are here to say, no more rhetoric and no more lies, it's time to lift the ban before we lose another life."

Dr. Denise Paone, an AIDS researcher from Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, said, "Scientific data is unequivocal — syringe



Howard Josepher

exchange saves lives. More than half of all new HIV infections come directly from injection drug use or indirectly through infection of spouses and children by drug users."

614 vs. 200,000

"It has become painfully clear that the largest single risk factor for HIV infection for drug users in this country are political leaders and their lack of political action," Paone said. "We don't have a cure and we don't have a vaccine, but we have a public health strategy that works. That is clean syringes via syringe exchange."

She cited the example of Britain, where there are only 614 AIDS cases related to drug use, compared to the more-than-200,000 such cases in the United

States. "Syringe exchange sends the right message: Every life is worth saving." Nearly a hundred such local programs are in operation in this country, but most are small and underfunded.

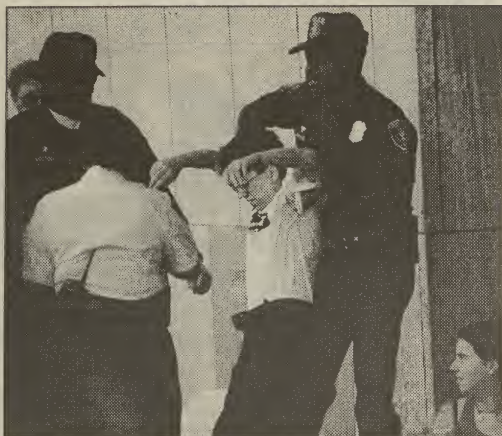
Keith Cylar, with Housing Works in New York, said the Clinton administration and Congress "are making this a political war because they refuse to do the right thing in spite of the science." He called it "a question of race and class. The people who are injecting drugs, the people who are dying from injecting drugs and AIDS are black and brown. And the people who control the money are white."

"Until you get out there in their faces and tell them, every day, I'm not going to die, my life is worth just as much as a white gay man, we will not have an end to this epidemic. Hold them all accountable, because if we don't, we die. And we die because they don't care."

Candidate vs. president

Howard Josepher, executive director of ARISE of New York, said, "Five years ago, a group of activists and service providers met with candidate Clinton. At that meeting he said, 'I don't have a problem with needle exchange, but I would leave it up to the states.' President Clinton has gone back on his word."

"We are the front-line troops that are fighting AIDS and drugs



Demonstrators in front of the HHS building are dragged off by police.

in our communities. We go into battle in the streets every day with our hands tied behind our backs because President Clinton and Donna Shalala will not give us the means to stop this epidemic."

"Lifting the ban on needle exchange is an act of compassion. We need your heart, Mr. President. We need that your drug policy not be held hostage to the likes of Jesse Helms. When you have the means to stop the spread of AIDS, and you choose not to use those means, it is called genocide."

"Save lives now. End the ban," chanted the crowd. It moved to block the main entrance of the HHS building and placed their

tombstones on the front courtyard. Then a dozen protesters sat down before the doors. When they refused to move, they were arrested.

Most recent arrests have been symbolic and the protesters cooperated in being cuffed and escorted away. This time many went limp and were handled accordingly by the federal police officers. The crowd began to shout, "Arrest Shalala."

HHS spokesman Victor Zonana said the Department continues to look at the issue, adding, "We have not yet concluded that needle exchange programs do not encourage drug abuse, the standard set by Congress." ▼

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- T-cells greater than 500
- Viral Load greater than 1,000
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AIDS czar says the battle is not over

United Press International

Federal AIDS czar Sandra Thurman told 2,500 people taking part in the U.S. Conference on AIDS at Miami Beach Friday, September 19, in clear and unmistakable terms that the war against the disease is not over.

Thurman warned that despite the number of reports on the potency of drug cocktails slowing the onset of full-blown AIDS, there is plenty of work still to accomplish. That is particularly true for Hispanic and African-American communities.

The latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control reflect a six percent drop in the number of AIDS cases overall from last year. They credit both the new drug regimens and prevention campaigns.

But Thurman is quick to point out that the figures do not show a universal reduction, because the prevention campaign does not touch everyone and the high price of drugs is prohibitive for many.

In addition, there has been a marked increase in AIDS cases among heterosexual African-



Sandra Thurman

American and Hispanic men, and heterosexual women of all ethnicities.

The director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy told those at the two-day convention that complacency would be easy, but there is a generation of Americans becoming sexually active who need to hear the AIDS message for the first time.

Thurman also chided some members of Congress, whom she called "backward." She said they do not understand the realities of today in America. ▼

HIV vaccine volunteers refuse to wait for FDA

United Press International

Fifty healthy volunteers affiliated with a Chicago doctors' group are ready to risk their lives and test an AIDS vaccine made from a live but weakened strain of HIV.

Members of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care are planning to meet next week to discuss the idea with officials from the National Institutes of Health.

The 50 volunteers - 39 of whom are physicians - would be injected with a weak strain of the AIDS virus that's been modified to slow its ability to replicate.

The viral strain is designed to serve as a vaccine that would train the body's immune system to fight and resist full-strength HIV.

Leaders of the group tell the *Chicago Tribune* that ideally they'd like approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin a study of the vaccine.

However, frustrated with the slow progress of AIDS research, the doctors say they'll go ahead with or without federal approval.

Dr. Gordon Nary explained his decision to volunteers, saying, "there should be no reason to delay continual work on the development of the vaccine simply because some people think that there will not be any volunteers."

More than 2,100 healthy volunteers have participated in clinical HIV vaccine trials, the *Tribune* said. But none of those involved a live strain of the virus.

Fauci sees problems

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy

and Infectious Diseases, says the group of physicians and other volunteers would be sidestepping crucial tests if they inject themselves as they announced.

"Although the concept is quite reasonable," Fauci said, "when you are dealing with HIV virus, there are a number of problems of safety."

Fauci told United Press International, "I can't imagine the FDA will approve it or will approve it rapidly."

A vaccine tested on animals, using the monkey equivalent of the virus, has protected the animals from AIDS, but not without causing other safety problems. Plus, unlike other live virus vaccines, such as polio, HIV can insert its genetic code into human cells, and "could stay with a person forever." Or, he said, the weakened form of the virus that would be injected might revert to a more virulent form.

At NIH, Fauci said researchers do plan to vigorously pursue research into an HIV vaccine that uses a live virus for use in high risk groups of people who are uninfected. Such groups, for example, would include people in a relationship with an HIV-infected partner, and in countries with high percentages of HIV infection as in some African countries.

More than 2,100 healthy volunteers have participated in clinical HIV vaccine trials. But none of those involved a live strain of the virus.

Fauci said he and other NIH researchers plan to meet with members of the Chicago group to discuss the issues, but he said no policy decisions would be made during the meeting. ▼

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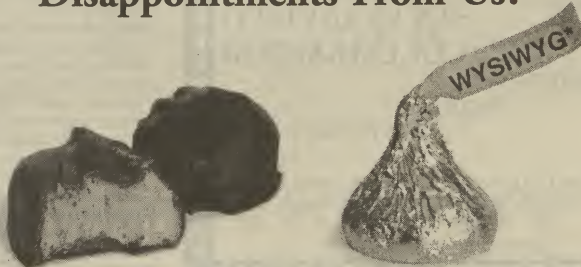
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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Edwin "Eddy" Caccia

March 7, 1956 – Sept. 16, 1997

Edwin "Eddy" Caccia died Tuesday, September 16, at Alta-Bates Hospital in Berkeley, Calif. He was 41 years old.

A native of San Mateo, Calif., Eddy lived in Albany, Calif., for the past 1-1/2 years. Prior to that, he lived in Alameda County for seven years.

Eddy was the owner and operator of Caccia Painting and Decorating. He was also an avid collector of arts and crafts and a movie buff. He loved his dogs, Emma and Binky, and if something was funny, it was funny.

Eddy was preceded in death by his father, Edwin, in 1976. He is survived by his mother, Patricia Worland of Fairbanks, Ala.; sister, Debra Cook of Applegate, Ore.; his twin brother, Joseph Caccia of San Jose, Calif.; and his many close friends who stood vigil over him until his death. Friends are planning a gathering in his name.

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SFAF, Shanti, AHP punish PWA by cutting off AIDS services

by Cynthia Laird

In what can only be described as a retaliatory move, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), using its affiliation with the AIDS Health Project (AHP) and Shanti, has curtailed an AIDS activist's access to services the three organizations offer under the umbrella HIV Services Partnership. Once a client comes to one of the partnership agencies in San Francisco, he is a client of all three and falls under the same administrative policies.

Alleging that HIV-positive activist Michael Petrelis stole a copy of the SFAF's client focus group transcripts, the partnership representatives stated in a September 4 letter that because the transcripts contain "confidential information regarding individuals with HIV disease," and because of Petrelis' "persistent lack of regard for the privacy of those with HIV/AIDS," his access was being restricted to individual services only. Additionally, he has effectively been barred from the offices of all three organizations.

Derek Gordon, communications director with SFAF, confirmed that as of Tuesday, September 23, the foundation has taken no criminal or civil action against Petrelis regarding his alleged theft of the transcripts that were prepared by David Binder Associates earlier this year. No police report has been filed, nor has there been any request filed for a restraining order against Petrelis.

'A matter of trust'

The move against Petrelis was engineered by SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen. An employee at one of the agencies who spoke on the condition of anonymity told the B.A.R. that Shanti and AHP representatives refused to sign the original letter until Christen toned it down. The source also said that Christen never told Shanti and AHP representatives that the focus group transcripts did not contain last names of people who attended the sessions.

Kurt Wuellner, associate director at Shanti, refused to confirm or deny those statements. Citing client confidentiality, Wuellner and Robert Rybicki, Shanti's new

executive director, would not comment directly on the partnership's letter to Petrelis; Rybicki was not yet on board at Shanti when the letter was written. Wuellner said that at the meeting of partnership representatives, Christen did not provide a copy of the transcripts as her evidence against Petrelis.

"I have not seen the document," Wuellner said, adding that he took Christen's statements "as a matter of trust."

Petrelis said he was told by a reliable source that Christen presented a copy of a Bay Area Reporter article about the focus group transcripts at the partnership meeting, plus a copy of the minutes from a meeting of the Mayor's HIV Health Services

executive director, would not request the matter be put on the agenda at a future meeting.

Representatives at SFAF, AHP, and Shanti have confirmed that Petrelis can follow the partnership's formal grievance process, something he's likely to do, although he doubts he will receive a fair hearing on the matter. He's furious that he received no advance notice the partnership's action was being considered; he has not heard from Christen regarding the focus group transcripts since she angrily called him immediately after being made aware the B.A.R. had obtained a copy of the document. Initially, Christen said the transcripts were forged; she later changed that to saying they were "stolen."

Activist Michael Petrelis has effectively been barred from the offices of all three organizations.

Planning Council during which Petrelis publicly stated he was in possession of the documents and planned to make them available on the Internet. At that same July 21 meeting, Christen said the transcripts are confidential and had been "stolen from the AIDS Foundation."

Joanna Rinaldi, AHP deputy director, was as tight-lipped as Shanti about the issue. "I really can't talk about this. Michael [Petrelis] does have access to services; we are not thoughtless in how we proceed in these matters. I'm in a situation where I can't say anything."

Christen, too, was unavailable. "There's no chance Pat would talk on this issue," Gordon said.

'No inkling, no call'

Petrelis told the B.A.R. that while he wrote to the city's Human Rights Commission (HRC) to file a formal complaint, he has been told the issue is not under their jurisdiction. He's frustrated because he has gone to several entities: the HRC, AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), and the HIV planning council. The HRC and ALRP have said they cannot help him, and he got no response from the planning council follow-

"I had no inkling this was happening, no call, no meeting," Petrelis told the B.A.R. "It's incredibly stressful seeing this conspiracy against me. If this happens to me, a loud-mouthed activist, what about others?"

Petrelis was at the September 22 meeting of the HIV planning council, where he symbolically bound his mouth before speaking. During his comments, read from a letter sent to AIDS Office assistant director and council co-chair Norm Nickens, he presented an Oreo cookie to council member Bart Casimir "because of his collusion with the National Association of People With AIDS [NAPWA]." Both Casimir and Christen are on the NAPWA board.

"Please understand that NAPWA is positive on the outside; negative on the inside. What will NAPWA do to help me, Bart?" Petrelis asked in his letter.

He was immediately criticized by councilmember Will Carter, who said, "I personally reject the inherent racism by giving the Oreo cookie to Bart."

Afterwards, Petrelis acknowledged the complaint, saying, "I felt Will Carter had a legitimate point about racism, I admit it." ▼

HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

New hope voiced at IDSA conference ... but not to everyone

by the ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool

Two weeks ago, the Infectious Disease Society of America held its annual meeting, this year in San Francisco. Unlike most other AIDS-related conferences, the IDSA meeting did not provide scholarships or access for people with AIDS and did not provide media registration to AIDS community newspapers. People with AIDS should be outraged at this denial of access to the conference. Attendance by AIDS activists is critical at these scientific meetings because new data regarding treatments is often presented at these meetings six months or more before it is published anywhere else. In some cases, data presented at these conferences is never published elsewhere.

Despite the unwelcoming atmosphere, a few community activists, including two members of ACT UP/Golden Gate, chose to pay to attend the conference. Some of the more important presentations these activists were able to witness are summarized below.

DMP-266, the next important anti-HIV drug

Dr. Sharon Riddler of the University of Pittsburgh presented data on DMP-266, now called Sustiva or efavirenz by its manufacturer, DuPont Merck Pharmaceuticals. Sustiva is an investigational drug in the class known as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs). There are currently two approved NNRTIs: delavirdine (marketed by Pharmacia & Upjohn as Rescriptor) and nevirapine (marketed by Roxanne Laboratories/Boehringer Ingelheim as Viramune).

The study design presented by Dr. Riddler was quite complicated. Patients were initially started on either a combination of Sustiva and Crixivan (59 patients) or Crixivan monotherapy (28 patients). Patients receiving the dual combination received 200 mg per day of Sustiva initially, but this was increased to 600 mg per day after patients were on Sustiva for at least six weeks. Because Sustiva lowers indinavir blood levels, patients on Sustiva had their indinavir dose increased from 800 to 1000 mg of indinavir three times daily.

After 12 to 24 weeks, patients on indinavir monotherapy were switched to the triple combination of indinavir + Sustiva + d4T. At twenty-four weeks, 94% of those initially on double therapy had an undetectable viral load, as compared with 73% on indinavir monotherapy. At 48 weeks, this declined to 88 and 68%, respectively. The 24-week difference was statistically significant, while the 48-week difference was not ($p=0.062$). Patients who initially received dual therapy had a 245 increase in CD4 count at 48 weeks, compared with a 180 CD4 increase for those on Crixivan monotherapy. This was also statistically significant.

As is the case with nevirapine and delavirdine, the most common side effect experienced by

patients receiving Sustiva was rash, which occurred in 28 patients on dual therapy and 12 patients initially on indinavir monotherapy. Because the indinavir monotherapy arm was switched to the dual therapy, some of the rashes in the indinavir arm may also be due to Sustiva.

While the data regarding Sustiva continues to be promising, one concern is that patients who added Sustiva and d4T after starting on indinavir monotherapy did not seem to realize any additional benefit in T-cell count or viral load. One would expect that the addition of these two drugs would have resulted in an at least transient drop in viral load. For example, when patients added delavirdine to failing regimens containing indinavir, a significant drop in viral load resulted in a significant percentage of patients. However, this did not occur with Sustiva.

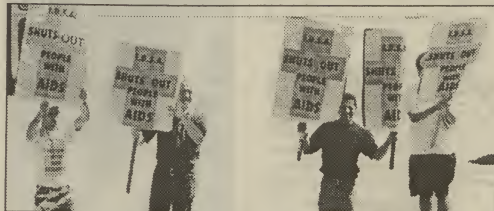
Fusion inhibitor t-20 - attacking a new HIV target

Researchers from Trimeris Pharmaceuticals and the University of Alabama reported on Trimeris's new HIV fusion inhibitor, T-20. Fusion inhibitors work by preventing free-floating HIV from fusing with and entering through the outside of the cell. This is a much earlier stage of HIV replication than is affected by nucleoside analogs, NNRTIs, and protease inhibitors, which only work in cells which have already been infected with HIV. Data regarding this drug is particularly exciting, as the drug attacks an entirely different HIV target as compared with other available anti-HIV drugs.

The open label trial consisted of sixteen patients who received one of four doses of T-20: 3, 10, 30 or 100 mg given intravenously. All patients initially had a CD4 count over 100, a viral load over 10,000, and were either antiviral naive or had been off antivirals for at least two weeks. On day one of the study, patients received a single IV dose, which was used to determine the drug's pharmacokinetic properties. This was followed by a two-day washout period. On days four through twelve, patients received injections of T-20 every twelve hours.

Of the patients who received 3 or 10 mg injections of T-20, a minimal decrease in viral load and a decrease in CD4 count was seen. Patients who received the 30 mg dose experienced a 0.48 log drop in viral load and a 21 cell increase in CD4 count. The most dramatic results were seen with the 100 mg dose: patients experienced a 42 cell rise in CD4 count and a 2.70 log decrease in viral load. Because all of the patients receiving the 100 mg dose dropped below the detection limit of 500 copies, the actual decrease may have been greater. This decrease is among the highest ever seen with a single agent therapy.

Unfortunately, T-20 cannot be taken orally. Patients wishing to use T-20 must be willing to undergo twice daily injections or receive the drug via continuous infusion. In addition to greatly increased



ACT UP/Golden Gate members protest PWA exclusion outside IDSA meeting at the Moscone Center Sept. 13.

cost and decreased convenience, frequent injections or an intravenous catheter could place patients at increased risk of infection.

Keep taking that Septra

With the advent of protease inhibitors, many patients have seen dramatic increases in CD4 counts. Because current standards for the prophylaxis of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) and other opportunistic infections are based on the patients' CD4 count, some patients and researchers are questioning whether patients with an increased CD4 count can safely discontinue PCP prophylaxis.

A study by DiRienzo suggested that in addition to protecting patients against PCP, some drugs used for PCP prophylaxis can help to prevent common bacterial infections as well. Previous studies have found that the use of Septra (Bactrim, TMP/SMX) can

help to prevent toxoplasmosis.

Because bacterial infections can occur at relatively high CD4 counts, drugs used for PCP prophylaxis may continue to provide a benefit to patients whose immune systems have been partially reconstituted. In addition, some evidence suggests that the immune system activation caused by even minor bacterial and other infections can lead to increased

HIV replication.

Researchers compared the incidence of bacterial infections among patients who were randomly assigned to receive Septra, Dapsone, or aerosolized pentamidine. The study consisted of 842 patients who had an average CD4 count of 150. Patients randomized to the Septra arm received relatively high doses: two double-strength tablets daily, as compared with the current practice of one double-strength tablet daily, or three times weekly.

Researchers found that persons receiving Septra were significantly less likely to experience bacterial infections than persons receiving Dapsone or pentamidine. Researchers also found that patients on Septra were less likely to develop ear and sinus infections than patients receiving Dapsone, or infectious diarrhea compared with patients receiving pentamidine. ▼

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Yum and yummer

by guest columnist
Grace Period

Decent moral reader Vivian Colt called a very serious matter to our attention last week. This matter needs to be attended to immediately. In lieu of groundbreaking information on Gay Games (it's still in August) or local sports (bowling: a bunch of people won, a bunch of people lost!), we should consider the very important issue of the press and sports. This week, usual sports writer Jim Provenzano is serving time as a guest gym coach at a junior high school in Chico to pay for the damage he has done in using a three-letter word some weeks back to describe our fine upstanding aquatic youth.

Moral people like Viv are up in arms over the perverted use of exclamations, specifically when used in reference to what that perverted publication, the *San Francisco Examiner*, called a "dripping wet 16-year-old surfer." Who knew the *San Francisco Examiner* was a publication for "pederastic comments," as Viv so pertinently pointed out.

While some people may find the idea of a "dripping wet 16-year-old surfer" merely a description of wetness, youth, and recreational athletics, others, like the ever-vigilant Viv, can't be fooled by those subliminal passages, and

see the sexual subtext therein, particularly those perverted three-letter exclamations used to describe these fine upstanding (on water, even) youths and their pals.

It is in her honor that we have established a new organization, the "Verifying Interpreters of Visuals In Sports And National Sports Spectators," hereafter known as VIV IS AN ASS.

Certainly we should follow the moral example of prominent sports publications in their quest for moral decency. But where to find them? Corruption seems to be everywhere! Just such an indecent magazine is *Sports Illustrated*.

As a founding document of VIV IS AN ASS, we can use examples from simply one issue of *SI* (the September 15, 1997 issue, for those who would like to follow along at home) to expose the degradation that runs rampant in sport publications.

Not-So Subliminal Advertising 101, submitted by VIV IS AN ASS

Page 1 & 2: The text says it all. "Give him an INCH and he'll take TEN yards." Well, actually, we know the subtext, that this Denver Broncos football stud has ten inches. Shot from just below crotch level, an ad for N_e shows him being grabbed. Note the placement of hands. His opponent's fist is in a perfect position



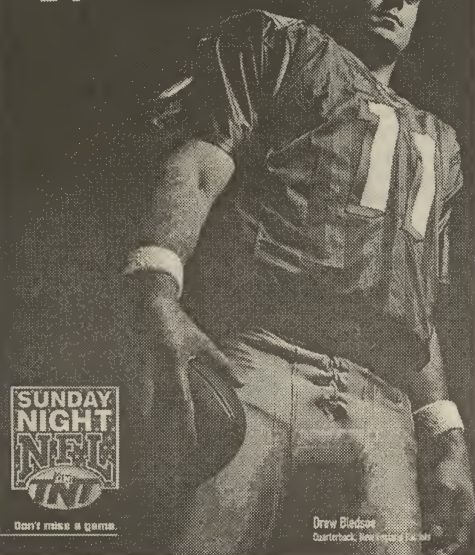
Page 26

to firmly grasp his opponent's ten inches.

Page 13: Where's the penis? Buffed out and turned into more of a veneered bumper of masculinity, the focus here seems to be on reducing the threat of buying Jockeys. Go figure. It's a crotch shot, that's all I see.

Page 18: Football player to go. Shot from below the crotch, New

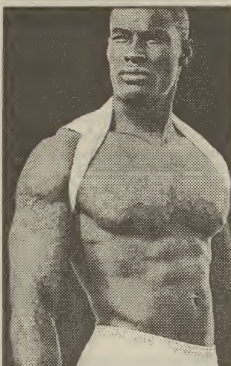
I can't wait for **Sunday night.**
I feel like a kid on Christmas Eve. And the defense is a great
big present about to be ripped open.



Page 18

England Patriots Q-back Drew Bledsoe is presented as a man who thinks of the defense as a "present about to be ripped open," when it is he, with his "dress-left" groin, that is the shiny, sweaty gift, ready to unwrap and consume.

Page 26: A shirtless blue man exposes his armpits! His skin is said to "thirst" for something.



Page 29

Page 29: African-American model Tyson is shown nearly nude in his underwear, his nipples exposed!

Page 33: The majority of the photos focus more on new tennis superstar Venus's fabulous hairstyle than on her serve. Hmmm.

Page 42: Two players are shown half-naked in the locker room! Shocking!



Page 42

Page 51: We will merely leave the reader to examine what the passenger in the golf cart is really clutching. If I had known golf was so sexual, I'd be the next Dinah Shore!

Page 105: The ultimate "illustrated" example of the homoerotic and strangely apt combo of tattoos, sports, the male form, and alcohol, in the form of the latest vodka ad. While the race of the model is not known, his being Japanese is implied to anyone apt in the source of the body tattoo art form, or the work of Sadao Hasegawa. Exotic ethnicity is used to show a cute butt.

We did not manipulate these ads in Photoshop. I am merely showing them to you, as a concerned member of VIV IS AN ASS. These ads are manipulative, not at all tasteful, and are subliminally supplying homoerotic imagery for a nation of sports fans! This must be stopped! They are available for purchase by millions of yummy 16-year-old kids! What an appalling outrage! ▼

Further examples of indecency, in jpeg form, can be e-mailed to Grace Period at grace@logx.com.

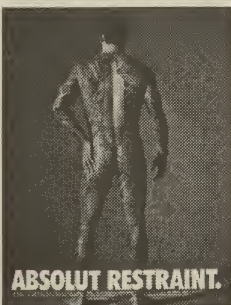
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Page 105

Bay Area gay health group updates role, name

by Dennis Conkin

Bay Area HIV and Support and Education Services of Black and White Men Together and Men of All Colors Together (BAHSES BWMT/MACT) will change its name on October 1 to Bay Area Health Support and Education Services.

The name change reflects an expansion of the 12-year-old nonprofit agency's mission to provide health education that includes HIV prevention, according to Lee Woo, the group's executive director.

Woo told the *Bay Area Reporter* the change more accurately reflects the community needs that BAHSES staffers have discovered in providing HIV prevention and services throughout the Bay Area from Solano to Santa Clara County.

"HIV is not the only thing that puts people at risk. It's kind of like Nancy [Reagan] saying, 'Just say no to drugs.' More has to happen than just giving a person a condom and saying, 'Be safe,'" Woo said.

Co-factors such as substance abuse, low self-esteem, discrimination, social rejection, and homophobia that are related to high-risk behavior are serious social issues and need to be addressed, Woo said.

"We've noticed that the HIV epidemic is more than behavioral change around sexual practices. There are many life issues that put

a person at risk, especially with today's stress of surviving in a fast-paced environment," he said.

With an estimated \$60,000 annual budget, three part-time employees, and a base of dedicated volunteers, BAHSES primarily serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender clients — but Woo says that an estimated one-quarter of its clients are heterosexual.

"Most of our clients are coming out of a public sex environment, and we work with a lot of men who have sex with men but don't identify as gay," he said.

In addition to providing HIV and STD prevention education in sex club and other social gathering spots, such as Steamworks in Berkeley and the Watergarden in San Jose, the agency works with Alameda County colleges and collaborates with other community agencies to provide health education and HIV/STD prevention.

The agency is also participating in California Health 2000, a broad-based public health education effort that includes an HIV/STD prevention education aspect.

BAHSES has also begun a new program for junior and senior high school students called "Positively Speaking," which sends people with HIV to talk to them in educational settings. ▼

For more information about BAHSES, contact the organization at (510) 621-7922.

Condoms Now!

◀ page 1

that of a less popular condom distributed by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Of the 67 businesses participating in Condoms Now!, most are located in the Castro, Polk, and South of Market neighborhoods, with a smaller number in the Mission, Haight, and Hayes Valley; restaurants and retail stores are taking part, but the overwhelming majority of businesses are bars, Gibson said.

"When men begin hitting the bars this week, they'll discover that there's plenty of rubber to go around," said Gibson.

The goal is to distribute over one million condoms during the fiscal year.

Martuni's...with a twist

As pleased as Gibson is with the Condoms Now! program, he is unhappy that one business, Martuni's, located in the Upper Market area, is noticeably absent from the list of participating bars. The reason, according to Gibson, is that one of the bar's three owners told him the other two are Catholic and do not believe in condoms for disease prevention.

Reached at Martuni's, one of the owners, who gave only his first name, Billy, confirmed Gibson's statement, but said his hands are tied.

"My cousin made a decision," Billy told the *B.A.R.* "I'm not going to question anyone's religion, and I don't think Stop AIDS should, either. My hands are tied.

I happen to think it's a good idea."

"Why do they own a bar with a largely gay clientele?" Gibson asked.

Gibson said SAP focused a great deal of attention on identifying bars and clubs with diverse clientele, especially targeting those venues popular among young men and men of color.

The push for widescale condom distribution began exactly one year ago, when it was reported that free condoms were not readily available during the Folsom Street Fair. Supervisor Leslie Katz called on the DPH to institute such a program, and was quickly joined by her colleagues Supervisors Tom Ammann and Susan Leal. This year's city budget provided \$165,000 for the program, \$150,000 of which was awarded to SAP.

SAP was awarded the contract based on its three years of success in distributing condoms through its Neighborhood Mobilization Program. Gibson said the Condoms Now! program was so named in a tribute to the community activism that fostered its creation.

One of those activists, Michael Petrelis, said he's very happy the program is finally in place, and put his usual sarcastic spin on the whole issue. "Condoms in gay bars in San Francisco? In 1997?" he observed. "Congratulations. What's next? A probe landing on Mars?" ▼

For more information, or to participate in Condoms Now!, call Gibson at (415) 621-7177 ext. 258.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216754
The following person(s) are doing business as PROPAGANDA INC., 450 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; London Antique Inc. (CA), 450 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed David Tyreman, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 22, 1997.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216774
The following person(s) are doing business as WARFARE RECORDS, 527 3rd Street, #203, San Francisco, CA 94107; Telem C. Okobi, 127 Eastridge Circle, Pacifica, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 22, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Telem C. Okobi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 22, 1997.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216717
The following person(s) are doing business as MARINO BOOKKEEPING SERVICES, 2021 California Street, #401, San Francisco, CA 94109; Joe Marino, 2021 California, #401, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 21, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Joe Marino. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 21, 1997.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216877
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. IN-TUNE SPORT 2. THE RUGGED ROAD, 1403 Deharo St., San Francisco, CA 94107; James Christian, 1403 Deharo St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed James Christian. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 26, 1997.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217121
The following person(s) are doing business as FU LI CONSTRUCTION, 149 University St., San Francisco, CA 94134; Fu Li, 149 University St., San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 5, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Fu Li. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 5, 1997.
Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217149
The following person(s) are doing business as AIDS EMERGENCY FUND, 1540 Market St., Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102; San Francisco AIDS Fund, Califor-

nia, Section 501(c) 3 Cord, 1540 Market St., Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 15, 1993. This business is conducted by 501(c) 3 Corporation (Non-profit). Signed Ken Turner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 8, 1997.
Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217144
The following person(s) are doing business as ALIGNMENT AND SUSPENSION OF SAN FRANCISCO, 240 12th St., San Francisco, CA 94103; Jose Luis Vargas, 529 N. 13th St., San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jose Luis Vargas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 8, 1997.
Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217330
The following person(s) are doing business as CASTROBEAR PRESENTS..., 584 Castro St. #374, San Francisco, CA 94114; Harry M. Lit, 2379 15th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Harry M. Lit. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 15, 1997.
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215241
The following person(s) are doing business as TARVER PSYCHIATRIC CARE, 295 Fell St., Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94102; Donald E. Tarver II, M.D., 37 States St., San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Donald E. Tarver II, M.D. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 27, 1997.
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 989337
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of CARLOS ALFONSO MADRIGAL for change of name. The application of CARLOS ALFONSO MADRIGAL for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that CARLOS ALFONSO MADRIGAL has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to CARLOS VELASCO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 16th day of October, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 4th day of September, 1997.
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 1997.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: Sept. 5, 1997. To Whom It May Concern:

The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: POWERHOUSE PARTNERS INC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 900 NORTH POINT ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109. For the following type of License: 47 ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. SAN FRANCISCO District Office, 185 BERRY ST. STE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107. (415) 557-3660
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217456
The following person(s) are doing business as MAYTA COMMERCIAL, 11 Merlin St., San Francisco, CA 94107; Louis Thomas Mayta, 1548 Hoover Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 18, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Lou Mayta. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 18, 1997.
Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217377
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. SAMMBS, 2. SHOW ME THE MONEY BILLING SERVICE, 33 Harriet St. #5, San Francisco, CA 94103; Ron L. Pendell, 33 Harriet St. #5, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ron L. Pendell. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 16, 1997.
Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216774
The following person(s) are doing business as WARFARE RECORDS, 527 3rd Street, #203, San Francisco, CA 94107; Telem C. Okobi, 127 Eastridge Circle, Pacifica, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 22, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Telem C. Okobi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 22, 1997.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216717
The following person(s) are doing business as MARINO BOOKKEEPING SERVICES, 2021 California Street, #401, San Francisco, CA 94109; Joe Marino, 2021 California, #401, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 21, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Joe Marino. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 21, 1997.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1997.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The San Francisco Police Department seeks Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for statistical support services in the development and scoring of all phases of the Q-60 Police Lieutenant examination.

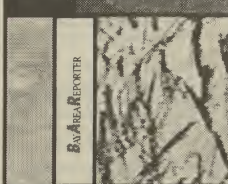
If you are interested in submitting a proposal, and you would like a copy of the RFP, please contact:

Terri Brady
Hall of Justice, Rm. 577-13,
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 553-1805

The deadline for proposals is October 7, 1997 at 5:00 p.m. MBE and WBE proposals are strongly encouraged.

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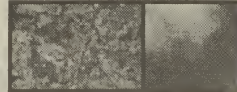
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Solo Mio continues with David Mills' 'The Wedding Banned'; Deborah Peifer oracles wildly on 'Apparition Alley.'
page 47, 53

Deepa Mehta's 'Fire' captures film world's heart, tests queer India.
page 49



Bowie, k.d. lang touch down in SF with drop-dead brilliant shows.
page 44



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 39 • 25 September 1997

Symphony halt

EDMUND WHITE
ON HIS LATEST
COMPOSITION

by Roberto Friedman

Fapa" Joseph Haydn wrote his *Farewell Symphony* in 1772, named for its dramatic finale, in which the musicians of the orchestra leave the stage one by one, extinguishing their candles as they go, leaving only a pair of violinists to play the closing notes. "Papa" Edmund White published *The Farewell Symphony* this month (Knopf), the last in his trilogy of autobiographical novels, in which, one by one, friends and lovers from the freewheeling '60s and '70s die off. It's the kind of book that sums up a career, one that might justifiably be called a masterpiece.

White, who lives in Paris, was in town on a boy's own book tour recently. Despite a full schedule of readings and interviews, he made time to meet me.

Roberto Friedman: San Francisco author Robert Glück has said that when he went back to reread *A Boy's Own Story*, he was surprised by how slim a volume it was, since in his mind it had assumed the stature of a big book. *The Farewell Symphony* is definitely a big book: isn't it as long as the first two novels (*A Boy's Own Story*, *The Beautiful Room Is Empty*) combined?

Edmund White: I think so, yes. Originally I was going to make it a tetralogy and have one book about the '70s and one about the '80s, but then I waited so long to do it because of the Genet book [White's biography of Jean Genet], which took seven years, that by the time I finally got around to it, I thought it would be intolerable now to read a book about everybody having lots of sex and fun in the '70s and end it there, just as I think it's almost equally intolerable to read a book that's about nothing but gloom and doom in the '80s, and end it there. So I thought if I combine the two, it will put the '70s in a tolerable perspective, and it will take off the curse of the '80s. Because I think that even though readers think that they *should* read books about AIDS, they often protect themselves against too much pain. A little curtain descends in their mind, and they stop reading after page 20, and I didn't want that to happen. I wanted a book that was lively and funny and that would also make them cry: that would treat them to the full range of emotions and keep them off-balance, and I thought by intercutting the present with the past, I could do that. But it really is material for two books compressed into one.

In a recent interview you lamented the sentimentality of much writing about AIDS, asking, "Why should a disease have its own art form?"

I think I was vexed the day I gave that interview. After Larry Kramer's diatribe [against White's
page 54 ►



Edmund White
in the late '80s

Marc Geller

"I'm happy to be a whore in promoting my books. If it would sell copies, I would go on 'Oprah' and sob with my nephew about 'incesting him!'"

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

Despite our gloomy prognostications, *In & Out*, the Paramount flick about a closet case (Kevin Kline) who gets pulled from his air-tight aerie by an openly queer journalist (Tom Selleck), seems to be doing well at the box office. According to *Variety*, the film dominated the nation's box-office last week with an estimated \$15.3 million, the second-strongest September opening after last year's \$18.9 million debut for *First Wives Club*.

Industry analysts say the film benefited from "impressive word of mouth" and "lots of sneak previews." Though several reports we read mentioned "strong marketing campaigns," none mentioned the fact that Paramount paid for a cushy New York junket to which every film reviewer in the universe was invited, which might explain the inexplicable number of cover stories this rather dull film received.

Varla Jean rules

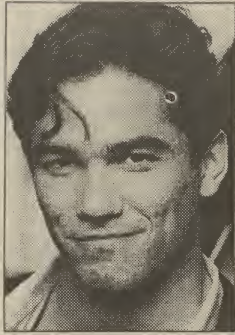
Bored with SF's fall arts scene only two weeks into the season, we grabbed our martini shakers and boarded a plane last week for New York, knowing full well we'd find plenty of stimulation in the Big Cripple. A mass grave installation at Soho-based Gagosian Gallery featuring zygotic humanoids with repositioned genitalia, brainchild of British artists **Dinos** and **Jake Chapman**, was the high point. The low point was **Lypsinka's Lypsinka is Harriet Craig!**, a spoof of the 1950 **Joan Crawford** flick at a small theatre in Chelsea. Although advance buzz on this confection seemed to indicate it was some



Varla Jean Merman

kind of extraordinary drag tour de force, we thought the show more like the Chapmans' mass grave, only more dead. Indeed, Lypsinka's power as a performer, which is uncontested in her usual lip-synching routines, begs scrutiny when the dragster is forced to give line readings and interact with others in the service of a narrative, or, in this case, what passes for same. Though Lypsinka had plenty of opportunities to expand her interpretation of Crawford's maniacal, scheming Craig, the dragster's approach to every scene never got beyond stock poses and that trademark constricted rictus. We realize, of course, that *Lypsinka is Harriet Craig!* is hardly a vehicle that allows an actor to stretch, but a little imagination can go a long way. Just ask drag artiste **Varla**

Jean Merman, who, in the role of chunky **Claire Raymond**, was the one thing about *Lypsinka is Harriet Craig!* we found memorable. Merman provided clever, character-revealing details that had us rolling in the aisle, like turning Claire into an eaters-anonymous candidate who just can't stop scarfing chicken legs and whole boxes of Stove-top stuffing. Her encounter with the dithering Billy Burkemeyer (**Russell Scott Lewis**) and her final scene, in which she loses her left eye to a piece of Craig's spiked furniture, were marvels of comic timing and invention. Go, Varla!



Dean Cain

Reprieve from oblivion

Given our exhausting weekend in the Big Cripple, we don't have a lot to report this week, though we must tell you about an intriguing item we fell across in *Daily Variety* about actor **Dean Cain**, erstwhile *Lois & Clark* star, Princeton graduate, and former professional football player. Seems the actor is about to embark on a CBS-TV project called *Rag & Bone*, which may air on the network as early as March '98. Cain, says *Variety*, will star in the "one-hour supernatur-

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Form and fusion

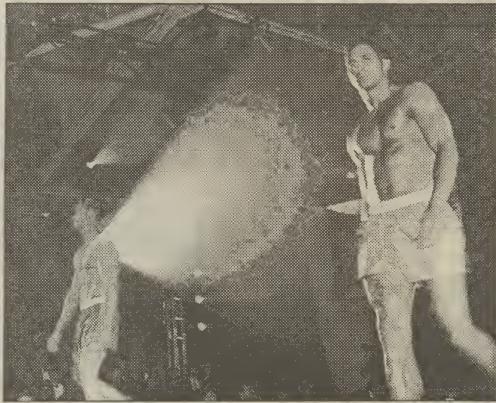
by Glen Helfand

Gala AIDS benefits have been with us for so long that it's hard to distinguish the form from the function. That was indeed the case at Macy's Passport Fusion fashion show last Thursday. It was a slick, glamorous evening where you kept having to remind yourself not to have too much fun.

After all, the Fort Mason event was packed with celebrities (**Magic Johnson** shaking the hands of CEOs, **k.d. lang** performing her MAC cosmetics spokesperson duties with Stepford-like efficiency) and supermodels (a full-lipped, sunglassed **Tyson Beckford** scouted for cocktails at the pre-show soirée, while **Irina** was featured prominently in the program). There were also Levi's commercials and self-promoting Macy's and American Express representatives who revealed that the SF and LA Passports have raised a cool \$2 million for AIDS charities.

Thankfully, **Elizabeth Taylor**, whom Johnson respectfully called "the queen," prefaced the show with a bracing reminder of the human component of the cause. Frail and silver-haired, she passionately implored the decked-out, fun-loving audience to carry on the compassionate work of **Princess Diana** and **Mother Teresa**.

But after Liz was escorted off the stage, the event quickly mor-



Studs model Ralph Lauren "Intimates" at Macy's Passport event.

phed into an entertaining fusion of Las Vegas review and retailer's showcase. A lengthy list of sponsors and charities scrolled by on the video screen: GTE Wireless got nearly the same whooping audience response as Project Open Hand. Then came a parade of production numbers that featured trapeze artists, opera singers, a Chinese dragon, and a *Showgirls*-style menswear sequence boasting silver-painted, nearly nude men writhing in cages made from metal pipes.

The **Ralph Lauren** underwear and "Intimates" mannequins proffered the most skin. While a few of the lissome, leggy female

models covered their bare breasts with their hands, the guys were not nearly so demure. The oh-so-kissable **Nick Scotti**, a special guest, padded shirtless down the runway in **Polo undies**, while other more muscled and endowed guys flexed biceps and conspicuous bulges in their boxer briefs.

The beefcake may have been a crowd-pleaser, but the entire house was more riveted by **Tina Turner's** benevolent diva energy. She performed a mini unplugged set, and even managed to lure most everyone into a singalong on "Proud Mary." Now that's team work. ▼

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Down to her last cigarette

k.d. lang deliciously addictive in Paramount show

by Steven Jenkins

You better be careful," k.d. lang warned a bevy of screaming dykes last week midway through her incandescent Oakland concert. "My girlfriend is here tonight and I have to be on my best behavior." And indeed she was, completely captivating a demonstrative, refreshingly di-

verse audience of k.d. devotees in a two-hour show that confirmed her standing as the reigning female song stylist of contemporary popular music.

Touring in support of *Drag*, her smart, seductive new album of well-known and obscure tunes from different eras that employ smoking and cigarette motifs as metaphors for addictive love, lang has crystallized her original hy-

brid of torch and twang. Backed by a fluid seven-piece band that wrapped her drop-dead perfect vocals in silky arrangements adorned with pedal-steel guitar and accordion, lang moved smoothly from slow-burning ballads to rousing, country-flavored numbers in a carefully paced 20-song set that drew from many phases of her decade-long career. The singer's eclectic range of material and deeply felt connection to pop's illustrious past put her in the rarefied company of gifted singer/songwriters such as Annie Lennox, Elvis Costello, and Everything But the Girl's Tracy Thorn, all of whom are equally adept at interpreting other artists' tunes and penning their own standards-to-be.

Opening with several songs from *Drag*, lang played spurned lover on the smoldering "Don't Smoke in Bed" and whimsical drifter on "Smoke Dreams." For her gender-reversing version of Steve Miller's "The Joker," lang flirted and flashed coy smiles as she sang, *You're the cutest thing I ever did see/I really love your peaches, wanna shake your tree*, eliciting excited screams from women in the balcony.

For the lovely "Save Me," from the landmark *Ingenu* (which she called "Lingerie"), lang strapped on an acoustic guitar and joked that "Melissa isn't the only one who can play." (Mainstream rocker Etheridge seems to be in friendly competition with lang — and Ellen — for the unofficial title of America's Favorite Lesbian.) In one of the show's many highlights, lang honored angelic crooner Roy Orbison with dramatic renditions of "Till the Heart Caves In" and "Crying." On the latter, which has become one of her signature songs, lang dis-



k.d. lang

played remarkable vocal dynamics, her voice soaring spectacularly from hushed confession to impassioned longing. Following a lengthy standing ovation, one fan cried out, "Sing it again," to which an emotionally exhausted lang responded by dropping to the floor of the stage and croaking the song's first line. "Sorry, I just can't repeat that one," she said.

Rather, lang traipsed through Chris Isaak's "Western Stars" and turned sultry for her quietly erotic ballad "Wash Me Clean." "I've refused many times to sell that one to Tide for their commercials," she joked, then switched

gears again as soap bubbles blew around her and the band for a zesty version of "Miss Chatelaine," perhaps her most effervescent song. Prancing across the stage in the throes of love-swept domesticity, lang toyed with the song's ambiguous role-playing by switching the chorus to "I can't explain how I've become Mister Chatelaine."

Understated, witty, and above all genuine, lang infused every number with charm and effortlessly gorgeous singing. Everything about this show was as sharp and classy as lang's elegantly tailored pinstripe suit. ▼

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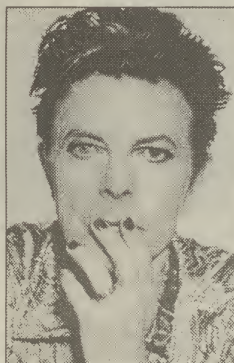
Earthling among us

David Bowie mixes glam and electronica in Warfield show

by Steven Jenkins

Oh my, I never knew such glamour existed," a playful David Bowie remarked upon surveying the sold-out crowd at the last of his three Warfield appearances last week. Bowie might have been commenting more accurately on his own remarkable star quality, which he exuded in spades with every theatrical gesture and shake of his hips during his raucous, frequently engaging, yet frustratingly uneven show. Drawing on old favorites and welcome surprises from his stellar back catalogue, as well as from more recent albums, like the serial-killer song cycle *Outside* and the electronica-heavy *Earthling*, Bowie remained entrancing, even when the show bogged down in repetitive material and overamplified noise.

Bowie turned 50 earlier this year, yet unlike his middle-aged, middle-of-the-road peers Eric Clapton, Elton John, and Fleetwood Mac, the onetime Ziggy Stardust refuses to coast on past glories or settle gracefully into ir-



David Bowie

relevance as a so-called elder statesman of rock. Despite dwindling album sales and a gradual decline in the quality of his songwriting, Bowie remains consistently interesting for his willingness to eschew easy nostalgic appeal in favor of fresh stylistic experimentation. Having made an indelible mark on music and popular culture with a series of bril-

liant albums and sexually ambiguous personae throughout the '70s and early '80s, Bowie has retained his unique appeal even as his creative vitality has wavered. His recent fraternizing with industrial-rock guru Trent Reznor and his plundering of trendy techno beats on *Earthling* have been championed by fans as signs of continuing innovation, but cynics dismiss these efforts as merely hollow attempts to reclaim club-culture cachet. The Warfield concert offered evidence in support of both theories.

The show certainly started off strong, and for the first hour Bowie and his well-practiced four-piece band tore through invigorating versions of classics and new songs. Looking fit and dashing in an unbuttoned silk shirt, gray slacks, and sandals (he's perhaps the only person in the world who can look sexy in Birkenstocks), Bowie made his casual entrance with a big grin and an acoustic guitar on which he strummed the opening chords to "Quicksand," from 1971's *Hunky Dory*. His voice was strong and ex-

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Building on history

by Deborah Peifer

The beginning of the new theatre season offers an embarrassment of riches: historic revivals and world premieres, traditional works, and pieces that are more than a little off the wall. What follows is just a hint of the abundance.

One of the real dangers of being marginalized in our culture is that we constantly have to re-discover or reinvent our history. I can't tell you how many young gay men and lesbians I've met who have no idea what Stonewall is. Another peril is that we will end up being defined by the plague. In an effort to deal with both problems, The New Conservatory Theatre opens its 1997-98 Pride Season with a revival of the groundbreaking *Crimes Against Nature*, a series of stories told through ritual, mime, and dance. Created by the Gay Men's Theatre Collective in 1977, the play was a celebration of gay love and gay survival in a brutally oppressive culture. I spoke with director Ed Decker, who told me that the play has a special place in his life. "It was 20 years ago, and this was the first time I'd seen gay guys on stage. It was a formative experience." A concern that gay history was disappearing led Decker to try and locate the script. He was able to find three surviving members of the Collective, Rick Wilson, David Baker, and Michael Starkmen, who are all working on the NCT production. Although



Scott Grinthal and Kathy McMillan in *Company*.

written two decades ago, *Crimes* is "relevant today," Decker explains. Some references have been updated — sex clubs instead of the baths, and a change in the drug of choice — but Decker wanted to use those pieces that "plugged into history. This production takes place then and now," says Decker. "We're not reinventing history, we're building on it." *Crimes Against Nature* runs through October 25 at New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Avenue. Call 861-8972 for reservations.

On the fringe

If you missed the San Francisco Fringe Festival, take heart. You still have a chance to see *The Best of the Fringe*. According to producer Christine Augello, the six productions represent a sampling of the Fringe experience. "I tried to combine audience favorites with pieces I thought deserved a bigger audience." The selections include Thrillpeddlers' shocksploitation of Shakespeare's bloodiest play, *Mondo Andronicus*; Elisa DeCarlo's *Cervix With a Smile*; a dance performance by Mari Osanai, *Sky Dream*; Byron Lee's *Paper Son*, *Brides and Other Disabilities*; and *Caribou Tribute*, featuring The Whistleaires. *Best of the Fringe Festival* runs for three nights only, September 25, 26, 27. *Caribou Tribute* runs an additional eight performances from October 3-25. For information on schedules and locations, call 673-3847, or check out the Website, www.sffringe.org

Three decades of Magic

On October 9, Magic Theatre will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a star-studded night of dinner, dancing, and live performance. Kathy Baker, Peter Coyote, Danny Glover, Ed Harris, and Amy Madigan are scheduled to appear and read selections from 30 years of Magic premieres. The party takes place at the Palace of Fine Arts. The whole evening costs \$125 per person (you can spend more if you want to meet the famous folk), but if that's a little steep, you can attend the readings and the post-show dancing for \$50 or \$35. Reservations are required no later than September 30. Call 441-8822 for tickets. The benefit helps to support some very worthy artistic causes including the Young California Writers Project, so dig deep and party hearty.

In good 'Company'

When *Company* opened on April 26, 1970, it helped to establish Stephen Sondheim as a composer/lyricist of exceptional skill. That production won Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Music, Best Lyrics, Best Book, Best Director, and Best Scenic Design. Since then, *Company* has been a

musical-theatre staple. But theatre doesn't stand still, and neither does Sondheim. He added the song "Marry Me A Little" to close the first act and excised Donna McKechnie's dance solo for the revised *Company* that opened in London last year. The revised version opens at Marin

Theatre Company this week, directed by Albert Takazauckas, choreographed by Lawrence Pech. I spoke briefly with Takazauckas, who calls *Company* "a lovely piece of theatre with an extraordinary score." It's not dated at all. The play is about marriage and what marriage means. That lifts it out of its time zone and makes it still powerful 20 years later. Sondheim is extraordinarily facile with language. "Of course, any discussion of Sondheim's lyrics leads inevitably to favorite rhymes. Takazauckas particularly admires "Look perhaps I'll collapse in the aspe." I confess that my favorite is his rhyming squabble with Bob'll. *Company* runs through October 19 at Marin Theatre Company in Mill Valley. Call 388-5208 for tickets and information.

Bellies unbound

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project offers *Liquid Fire*, a celebration of the erotic through sexy spoken word, poetry, dance and song. The show runs September 26-28 at Luna Sea, 2940 16th Street, #216C. Please note that the performance on the 28th is for women of color only. Call 863-2989 for information. Also at Luna Sea, *Bellies Unbound: Possessing Ourselves*, an exploration of the power and desire of the body through multi-media art and performance. Performances are October 3, 4, 11, 12. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a performative nature that you wish to share with readers, contact me at dpeifer@delphi.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

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Croakfest

Harvey Fierstein burps at Solo Mio

by John Blanco

Harvey Fierstein's acting person has always been that of a caustic old Jewish woman trapped in the body of a bearish gay man. It's a persona he has parlayed into a successful career on stage (*Torch Song Trilogy*), screen (supporting roles in hits like *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *Independence Day*), and countless TV talk show appearances. So it wasn't surprising to see Fierstein dutifully croak and flit his way through an evening of song and comedy patter entitled *This Is Not Going to be Pretty* at the Cowell Theatre last Friday as part of the Solo Mio Festival. Fierstein, doing the shtick expected of him — nothing more, nothing less — was like a performer on autopilot.

If Fierstein wasn't offering any surprises, the packed house at the Cowell didn't seem to mind. The Fierstein faithful squealed over just about everything that came out of his mouth. They even seemed to find it charming when Fierstein chugged on a carbonated drink early in the performance and then burped contentedly throughout the rest of the show.

Fierstein was obviously coasting on what most in the audience felt was his considerable charisma. He relied heavily on it to pull off several routines — such as reading a strange fan letter or reciting the police log from his hometown

newspaper — that weren't inherently funny. During the fan letter bit, Fierstein dragged two boys onstage to read part of the letter while he groped and nuzzled them, one of several moments of audience interaction in the show. (He told one of the boys who was fanning himself with a program, "You hot? I'll blow you later.")

At other points, Fierstein chuckled prepared comedy routines altogether in favor of improvised chatter. He told the audience about a queerer-than-*Ellen* sitcom he's developing at CBS. He described the Connecticut town he

lives in, and went on to dis his neighbor, Martha Stewart. ("What that women did! Stealing gay skills.") He saved his most scathing remarks for Hollywood, taking the industry to task for the lack of authentic homos in the cast of films like *It's My Party* and *In & Out*.

Fierstein stopped gabbling long enough to sing a few tunes, accompanied on piano by Lenny Babish. Fierstein's trademark rasp paired well with a couple of old blues standards, "Kitchen Man" and "Franky and Johnny," the latter featuring what he claimed were its original Civil War-era



One-trick pony?

lyrics. Fierstein had less success with original material, such as his mawkish renditions of *La Cage*

aux Folles' "I Am What I Am" and an untitled AIDS requiem, which was filled with facile couplets like, "When the war is won/When the plague is done."

As a person I admire Fierstein's candor and his ballsy, confrontational style. Anyone with the temerity to tell off Michael Reagan on national TV or Tipper Gore in front of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is worthy of esteem. But as a performer, Fierstein rarely displays that kind of spark. His Solo Mio show proved he's been repeating himself for too long; it's time for some reinventing. ▼

Whimsy at warp speed

David Mills' 'The Wedding Banned'

by Heidi Beeler

When gay marriage happens, it's gonna star Meredith Baxter Birney and the entire fucking nation is gonna be watching!"

So proclaims writer/comedian David Mills in *The Wedding Banned*, a witty and incisive comic monologue about "the love that dare not shake its booty," featured at the 8th Annual Solo Mio Festival this week and next.

In *The Wedding Banned*, Mills plays a jaded Castro resident who is faced with the het marriage of Sharon, his best friend and fellow renegade from college. While our protagonist struggles to get himself to church on time for Sharon's wedding, he becomes aware of an emerging sense of jealousy from within, a condition he deals with by losing himself in an assortment of whimsical fantasies that range from casual sex in Safeway's fruit-and-vegetable aisle to a made-for-TV movie about marriage

starring Meredith Baxter Birney and Lee Majors.

Mills is to comedy what acid rock is to Western harmony. His comic sensibility has a bite that is all the more hilarious for its dead-on accuracy. Filled with media parody and one-liners that whip by at warp speed, Mills' work takes no prisoners. And he's just as likely to go after gay fads and pop culture as he is the shallowness of the mainstream.

The Wedding Banned was de-

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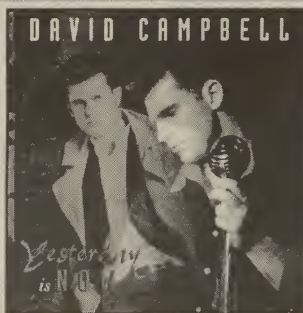
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Step lively

American Ballet Theater's Keith Roberts takes flight

by Robert Johnson

or many young men, the Bay Area remains the land of dreams come true, a place where wishes long delayed can be fulfilled. When American Ballet Theatre returns to Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley this week (September 30 to October 5), one young man's most glorious hopes will be realized. The dancer Keith Roberts, newly promoted to principal, will leap into the spotlight, performing lead roles in six of the eight works selected for the tour.

Indeed, the Berkeley engagement nearly amounts to a Keith Roberts festival, giving him opportunities to display his talents in Twyla Tharp's *The Elements*, George Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, the Russian concert classic *Le Corsaire*, Antony Tudor's *The Leaves Are Fading*, Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free*, and James Kudelka's *Cruel World*.

For Roberts, 27, the current year has conferred the breakthrough for which he has yearned ever since he joined ABT as a teenager. During ABT's engagement at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, he alternated in the title role of Lar Lubovitch's new, evening-length *Othello*, and in Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow* he stole scenes with his comedic brilliance. Stepping proudly into the role of Prince Désiré in *The Sleeping Beauty* this season, Roberts has ascended the summit of ballet classicism.

Robert's promotion from soloist to principal dancer in August acknowledged not only his successes this season, but also rewarded ten years of dedication, constant striving, and achievement. "I feel like I've come into my own, and become what I set out to be," he says with satisfaction.

Caught between class and rehearsal, Roberts, a native of Col-

orado, is sitting for this interview in a temporarily vacant studio at ABT headquarters in New York. Dressed in neat, black rehearsal togs, he appears to be a thoughtful young man, elegant without ostentation, articulate and handsome, a robust man who fits the ABT mold, yet whose well-defined musculature preserves the softness of youth. In person, the dancer's green eyes seem to possess a special delicacy. Even in stillness, Roberts exudes a special poetry, presenting an affecting combination of sensitivity and brawn.

The promotion signifies, he says, "an acknowledgment that what you've always known inside is coming true. It's the gratification that you've reached a high level, and it's the beginning of a new stage in life."

The path to stardom, he confesses, was not an easy one. "I came into the company at 17, so I was very green and inexperienced." He describes the ensuing time as a period of growing up. "Not only do you get frustrated with being in a company where there are so many other good dancers who are developing just as you are, but it's a personal struggle as well. We're always worried about what we're doing, how we're improving. It's a big battle, being an artist."

Roberts brings to this battle the advantage of having trained in both ballet and modern dance, which has equipped him for the *demi-caractère* roles that make up so much of the contemporary ballet repertory, prepared him to work with the guest choreographers whom ABT imports, and made him extremely adaptable. Roberts is a very useful dancer to have around.

The young man has nurtured a particular relationship with postmodern maverick Twyla Tharp. "I think every dancer has one choreographer that they

Keith
Roberts

truly understand and love to work with, and Wyla has been that choreographer for me," Roberts says. "There's a way that I click with her. I started working with her when she came back to Ballet Theatre in 1988 — she got me as a baby. I've also toured with her company. Every time she comes in to Ballet Theatre to do a ballet, I'm there."

In *The Elements*, Tharp created a role designed to display Roberts' gifts. With a passionate nature and a long, delicious torso that he turns to maximum expressive effect, the dancer possesses both a temperament and a physique that make him the perfect interpreter of soulful, male adagios. Though *The Elements* may not be one of Tharp's most groundbreaking works, Roberts' "Sciellienne" is an affecting por-

trait of vulnerable masculinity, following in the tradition of the male solos in Paul Taylor's *Aureole* and Balanchine's *Square Dance*.

Roberts says he wants this lyricism to carry over into his other parts. "There are qualities that you can take from one ballet to another," he points out. "There's an aspect of what I do in *The Elements* that I try to take into *The Leaves Are Falling*, to make a *pas de deux* that's incredibly smooth, very passionate, free, and abandoned."

Each of the roles he will dance in Berkeley presents a special challenge, however. *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* demands great technical clarity. The *pas de deux* from *Le Corsaire*, of particular interest this season as it augurs next spring's revival of the full ballet, requires bravura spir-

Fancy Free is choreographic slapstick. The lengthy *pas de deux* in *The Leaves Are Falling* tests a dancer's stamina and ability to lift his ballerina repeatedly.

Asked whether he alters his gym routine to prepare for heavy lifting roles, Roberts smiles. "I've never gone to a gym or worked out to get bigger. I'm just naturally this way," he says modestly. Daily ballet classes and endless rehearsals and coaching sessions are another matter.

Roberts' new prominence at ABT means that some small roles will drop from his repertoire (he can hang up the matted wig and soiled loincloth of the Head Fakir in *La Bayadère*, for instance). Gradually his repertoire of classics will grow, including perhaps the coveted part of Albrecht in *Giselle*. One of a new generation of American dancers who are eager to explore every kind of movement style — traditional, modern, and beyond — Roberts wants to taste it all. This season, at Berkeley, his wish begins to come true. ▼

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David Bowie

◀ page 44

pressive, having deepened over the years, and still capable of those vibrato flourishes that sometimes make him sound suspiciously like Anthony Newley.

The band — Zachary Alford (drums), Gail Ann Dorsey (bass), Reeves Gabrels (guitar), and Mike Garson (keyboards) — joined Bowie midway through "Quicksand" and followed his lead on the Velvet Underground's "druggy" "I'm Waiting for the Man" and *Low*'s ominous "Always Crashing in the Same Car." Downbeat blues and glam-rock riffs propelled "The Jean Genie" and "Panic in Detroit," both from *Aladdin Sane*, while *Lodger*'s "Look Back in Anger" showcased Bowie's patented blend of guitar-heavy melodrama and ambient drone.

The band then shifted gears into dissonant arrangements and

rapid beats for tracks from *Outside* and *Earthling*. While "I'm Afraid of Americans," "Seven Years in Tibet," "Looking for Satellites," and "I'm Deranged" were intermittently involving, it's difficult even for an accomplished tunesmith like Bowie to inject memorable melodies or song structures into the currently popular trip-hop and drums-and-bass genres (only the supremely talented Everything But the Girl has done so, on its brilliant *Walking Wounded* CD). "Little Wonder" and "Battle for Britain (The Letter)" fared better, as did refashioned versions of "The Man Who Sold the World," "Scary Monsters (and Super Creeps)," and "Fashion." Bowie also dueted nicely with bassist Dorsey on "Under Pressure," originally recorded with Queen.

Bowie regained momentum with "All Young Dudes," "Moonage Daydream," and "Hallo Spaceboy." When he sang the lines, "Do you like girls or boys?/It's confus-

ing these days," the crowd at the foot of the stage showered him with sparkling confetti. The anticlimactic encores included two meandering instrumentals and an inexplicable ten-minute version of Laurie Anderson's "O Superman," which was anything but super. I also could have done with much less of Gabriel's ear-piercing guitar squeals, which he glumly choked out of his instrument with all the joy of a disgruntled slaughterhouse underling.

Despite its flaws, the show succeeded largely on the strength of Bowie's terrific singing and commanding stage presence. His interest in electronica will, I'm guessing, subside as he continues to dabble in styles more artistically rewarding than techno. Ten years from now, when most 60-year-olds are planning for retirement, Bowie will no doubt be making a racket of some sort, and with twice the panache of Mick and Keith combined. ▼

Burning down the house

'Fire': old and new clash in modern India

by Gary Morris

Fire is a fascinating anomaly. It's an Indian feature written and directed by a woman, Deepa Mehta, and her subject is one of India's many gender-related taboos: lesbianism. In spite of its explicit treatment of the affair between two oppressed wives, *Fire* attracted little notice during production because the censors were too busy trying to stop Mira Nair's lurid (and inferior) *Kama Sutra*. Director Mehta had to wait until the film's showing at an Indian film festival earlier this year for the full fireworks. The reaction of some male members of the audience was so violent that the police had to be called in. "I'm going to shoot you, madam!" was one response. According to Mehta, the men who objected couldn't articulate the word lesbian — "this is not in our Indian culture!" was as much as they could bring themselves to say.

It isn't only the tangible pleasures of a lesbian relationship that created such heated reactions, though that is certainly the most obvious reason. This beautifully shot, well-acted film is a powerful, sometimes hypnotic critique of the rigid norms of a patriarchal, post-colonial society that keeps sexes down. All of Mehta's characters are trapped in their own lives, but two of them find a way to escape by discovering who they re-

ally are.

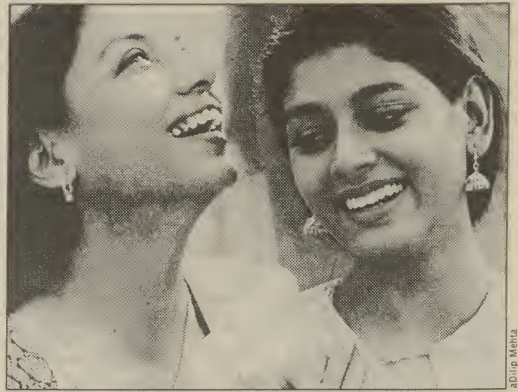
The film opens with an image of a family — father, mother, and daughter — sitting in a vast, bright field of yellow flowers. The mother recounts a parable to her daughter about a group of people living in the mountains. "They had never seen the sea," she says, "though they wanted to see it. They were sad because of this. 'Don't be sad,' an old woman says, 'what you can't see, you can see — you just have to see without looking ...'" This gorgeously idealized image, which recurs throughout the narrative, is the director's poetic tableau of the seductiveness of "seeing," i.e. discovering one's true nature and choosing to live authentically, no matter what the cost.

The daughter in the image is a very young Sita (Nandita Das), now a modern woman who has become part of a troubled petit-bourgeois family in New Delhi through an arranged marriage. Her equally frustrated husband Jatin (Jaaved Jaaferi) prefers his Chinese girlfriend, who gets her kicks by making him lick her toes. Jatin's brother, the head of the household, is Ashok (Kulbhashan Kharbanda), a middle-aged celibate who spends most of his money and time on a guru who teaches that sexual desire is evil. Radha (Indian superstar Shabana Azmi) is his wife, a traditionalist who silently cooks, cleans, and endures cruel bedroom rituals in

which Ashok asks her to lie next to him so that he can test temptation. (He never touches her.) A treacherous servant, Mundu (Ranjit Chowdhry), and Ashok's mute, paralyzed old mother Biji (Kushal Rekhi) complete this grim portrait.

Sita's arrival brings a modern sensibility into this moribund group, nudging it toward a long-delayed collapse. She refuses to go along with the family's unspoken plan that she produce children to occupy her time in a loveless marriage. "This duty thing is overrated," she tells a shocked Radha. Eventually she draws Radha out of her shell, and the two of them find in each other what their husbands refuse to give. Director Mehta shows their affair progressing while their uncomprehending husbands watch. The men in fact unwittingly feed their affair by keeping them consigned to the domestic sphere and to each other's company. During a picnic, Sita slyly offers to massage Radha's feet. Ashok smiles stupidly, unaware of what lies behind this simple act, and says, "I'm lucky to have such a family." The kitchen, normally a major zone of oppression, becomes a cozy space for their love, one in which tradition is turned on its head. While they're cooking, Radha explains that men eat black pepper on their wedding night "for better performance." Sita asks, "What

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Shabana Azmi and Nandita Das in Deepa Mehta's *Fire*.

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Tradition versus desire

Deepa Mehta says 'Fire' is more than a 'lesbian' film

by Sandip Roy

In 1941, Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai was hauled up in an Indian court on obscenity charges for her short story *Lihaaf*, about the physical relationship between a Muslim woman and her maid. Chughtai was acquitted because though everyone knew what she was doing, there was no name for the illicit love she enjoyed, hence no charges could be brought against her. More than half a century later, Indian-Canadian director Deepa Mehta (*Sam and Me*, *Camilla*) remembered *Lihaaf* when she sat down to write the story of *Fire*.

Fire is set in a middle-class Delhi household. Radha (Shabana Azmi) is a childless housewife who spends her time tending to everyone's needs and suffering the neglect of her husband, who is more attached to religion than to human beings. Meanwhile, his younger brother spends more time with his mistress than his vivacious new wife, Sita (Nandita Das). The lonely Sita reaches out to Radha, and their friendship blooms into a sexual intimacy at odds with entrenched Indian tradition. Radha and Sita soon realize that loving each other is one thing,

living with that love is quite another. As Sita asks Radha, "What are you going to say, that you love me, but not like a sister?" I spoke with Deepa Mehta last spring about *Fire* at the time of its San Francisco premiere at the National Asian American Film Festival.

Sandip Roy: How did the idea for *Fire* come to you?

Deep Mehta: I thought it would be interesting to do a film from the point of view of a girl from a middle-class family who walks into an arranged marriage. And Ismat Chughtai's *Lihaaf* really touched me. So, I thought, supposing there is an older sister-in-law and they turn to each other for emotional nurturing, is it possible that they could fall into a physical relationship?

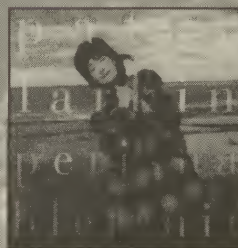
Why push that emotional bonding into a physical relationship?

Because I thought it was very natural. Oppressed sexuality does find a voice, and in this case it seemed a very natural step. Especially for the younger one to initiate it and for the older one to be at first bewildered and hesitant and then give in. That is how the

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Paolo Gavanelli as Rigoletto

Amateur's night

Verdi's 'Rigoletto'

by Paul Thomason

It is truly a sad day for local opera lovers when the San Francisco Opera mounts a new production of Verdi's *Rigoletto* and the only part that is worthy of the opera is the Maddalena. On Saturday, September 13, only the knowledge that Elena Zarembo was still to make her appearance in the role kept me from fleeing the War Memorial Opera House in horror after two acts of a truly intolerable, provincial *Rigoletto*. Zarembo redeemed the evening. Though Maddalena is only on stage for about 15 minutes, the Russian mezzo once

again proved she is not only an uncommonly good singer, but also one of the most arresting performers in the world of opera today. Her magnetic stage presence radiates true charisma. One longs to hear her sumptuous, dark, smoky voice with its secure technique and even scale in recital. While one is grateful for the opportunity to see Zarembo even in a small role, fans wonder when we will get to enjoy her Carmen or Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Unfortunately, if Zarembo represents great international-class performances, her colleagues on this occasion were better suited to a high school gym in the East Bay. It is as silly to present *Rigoletto* without a *Rigoletto* as it is to present *Norma* without a really good Norma, though that does not stop opera companies from doing so. Baritone Paolo Gavanelli was

mains a local favorite, and her fans were in superb voice, even drowning out the soprano on occasion in their rush to pay her homage.

One wonders why Anatoli Kotcherga was imported to make his U.S. operatic debut as Sparafucile when his dry voice lacked the low notes crucial to that part. Any female Merolini or Adler Fellow would have been an improvement over Josepha Gayer's debut as Giovanna.

But then, casting this *Rigoletto* has provided much more excitement off stage than did the performance itself. Tenor Richard Leech had to withdraw due to a death in the family, and was replaced initially by Carlo Scibelli, whose name appeared in the program, along with numerous photos taken during rehearsals. However, beginning with the dress rehearsal, the part of the Duke was

Swenson managed to stay on pitch, even with Gavanelli bawling wrong notes in her ear in duets.

often quite loud in the title role. But by forcing his voice so relentlessly, it rebelled after an hour or so, developing a pronounced bleat and a refusal to stay on pitch. Gavanelli was conscientious about varying his dynamics, and he gave every indication of being committed to the performance, a rarity on stage that evening. But he sang unmusically and crudely, merely sketching the astounding riches in *Rigoletto*'s part.

Soprano Ruth Ann Swenson managed to stay on pitch, even with Gavanelli bawling wrong notes in her ear during their duets. Brava. But it was not until the storm scene in Act III that she gave any evidence that she was Gilda. Once she decided to become involved in the proceedings, her performance improved. Her death scene was genuinely moving. At volumes under *forte*, her top was thready and thin, but the trill was true. Despite her lackluster performance, Swenson re-

played by Martin Thompson, making his debut with the company. A press release explained Scibelli had to withdraw "due to a family matter," but published reports in the local press gave differences with Ruth Ann Swenson as the true reason.

The real question should be, Why was Scibelli hired to sing the Duke in the first place? Last summer he was one of the tenors singing Pinkerton in the company's *Madama Butterfly* at the Golden Gate Theatre. On the night I heard him, he revealed a small voice barely adequate to the role, with a short top and little sense of style. So why would he be cast as the Duke, a more difficult role, for performances in a larger theater? Did the casting people at SFO not hear Scibelli sing Pinkerton? Do they not know the vast differences required by the roles of the Duke and Pinkerton? If they do, why would they hire a

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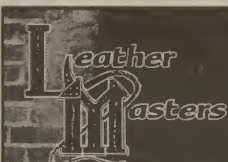


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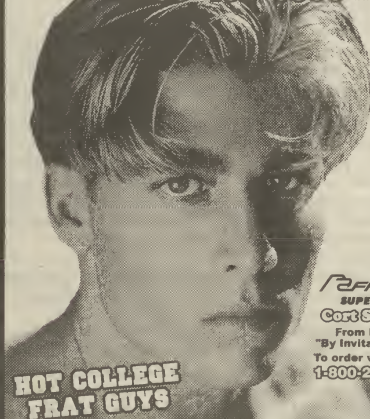
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Sapphic chanteuse

Von Stade glows in Berkeley recital

by Stephanie von Buchau

If you missed Frederica von Stade's recital at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall Saturday you have my condolences. Not only is Flicka in fine, healthy voice these days, but her demanding, intelligent program was a truckload of fun. She topped off a series of French songs and three world-premieres by contemporary American composers with Schoenberg's ambiguous cabaret songs (*Brettli-Lieder*).

For the French half of the program, von Stade, looking trim in a satiny white ball gown, performed songs by Fauré (Verlaine's anguished "Prison" may have been the evening's emotional highlight), Debussy, and Ravel. Her full voice in the *Chansons de Bilitis* stilled doubts some might have about how she'll fare as Mélisande in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* at San Francisco Opera in November.

For the second half, von Stade appeared in slinky black trousers and halter-top, showing off a dashing tan and good muscle tone as she sang two amorphous love songs by André Previn (with alto flute accompaniment by the opera orchestra's Angela Koregelos). The romantic sentiments were subtle, but form is not Previn's strong suit, making one wonder about his upcoming opera, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the longer

the piece, the more formal shape it needs. (Incidentally, *Streetcar*'s original Blanche DuBois, Sylvia McNair, was in the audience along with most of the stars of SFO's *Marriage of Figaro*.)

Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, a closet composer, knows all about structure, and his two Broadway-style blues songs were masterfully crafted. "Message Machine Blues" has this devastating verse:

You'd come around to see

*me/With everything I seek
You push me past my limits/To
ecstatic peaks
Then you ask me kinds of ques-
tions/That torture me for weeks*

Jake Heggie's cycle, *Paper Wings*, employs a text by von Stade about her youngest daughter, Lisa. It's predictably warm and fuzzy until the final song, "A Route to the Sky," in which Heggie weaves Beethoven's "Für Elise" into a hilarious tale of Lisa and mom getting stuck on a roof and

having to be rescued by firemen. Heggie's tunes are accessible and singable, which bodes well for the rumored opera commission in his near future.

Still, it was cabaret songs (all passionately addressed to women) in which von Stade took the biggest risks and scored her best points. Coming across as a wicked combination of Marlene Dietrich and Meryl Streep — the bad and the smart — she delivered these Sapphic numbers with irresistible sophistication and campy sex appeal. ▼



Frederica von Stade

Suite inspiration

Yo-Yo Ma masters Bach at Davies Hall

by Timothy Pfaff

Yo-Yo Ma is back in the news with the oldest piece of music in the cellist's active repertoire, Bach's six unaccompanied suites. His recent performances of these works in collaboration with a range of other artists — last season at Zellerbach Hall the Mark Morris Dance Company gave the world premiere of the choreographer's "Falling Down Stairs" to Ma's live performance of the Suite No. 1 in G Major — will eventually result in a Sony Classi-

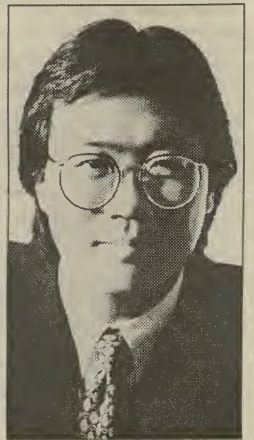
cal video called *Inspired by Bach*. At a time when other cellists are issuing second, follow-up interpretations on CD, Ma's decision to stake out new ground reconfirms his almost eerie combination of megastardom and artistic selflessness.

Ma made news of a different sort at Davies Hall last week, when he outshone an incandescent full moon in his latest Bay Area adventure with the suites *tout seul*. Although the cellist has played this music here before, and recorded it memorably, Monday's rendering was so fresh and inven-

tive it's likely that some listeners felt they were hearing these works for the first time.

At this stage in his career, Ma's mastery of the cello suites is unique. He plays them not merely with a plan, with attention to detail, but with a robust spontaneity that makes the occasional pings, scrapes, and wild pitches in his playing seem essential parts of the music. I can't remember ever relishing musical mishaps more (there were only a few). Still, in all three suites he played Monday — No. 4 in E-flat Major, the eccen-

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Cellist Yo-Yo Ma



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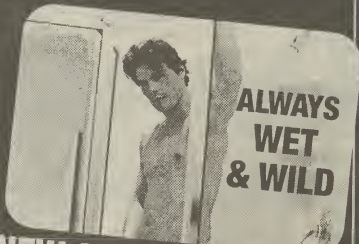
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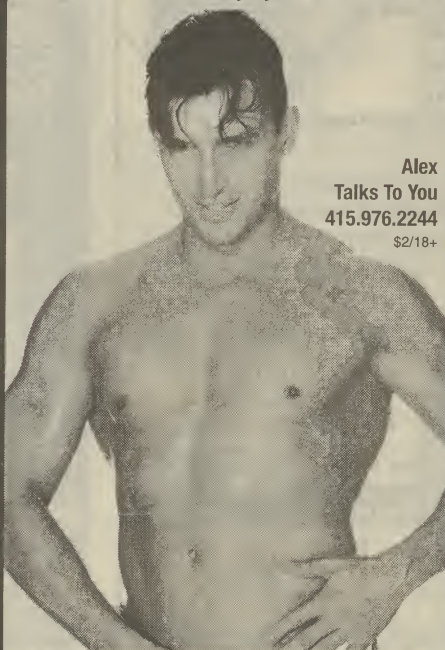
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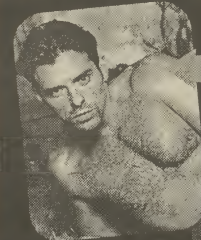
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FOLSOM STREET FAIR
WEEKEND

Deepa Mehta

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film became much more than a "lesbian" film. It is really a film about tradition versus personal desire.

What in your opinion would be a "lesbian" film?

Well, *Go Fish* is a lesbian film. I loved it, but it's for a certain market. In *Fire*, even though the lesbian aspect is very important it was just one aspect rather than the focus. But the reaction from my lesbian friends has been very interesting. They felt, "My God! A lesbian film that isn't about politics and is actually about falling in love."

Some critics have said that the film says women fall in love with each other when the men in their lives cannot satisfy them.

I don't know if my characters would have fallen in love with each other if their men had been more attentive to them. Probably it would have been more suppressed, but I think they still would have fallen in love.

The *New York Times* compared it to a steamy Jackie Collins novel.

Some people have no idea what the roles of women are in the context of the Indian subcontinent. For them, it's just a steamy romance. For my characters it is a matter of life and death — to make that kind of choice and vocalize it.

Did making this film raise questions about your own sexuality?

I happen to be heterosexual. It sounds so gratuitous when I say that. My exploration of sexuality came much earlier. While growing up you have crushes on other girls,

In 'Fire,' even though the lesbian aspect is very important it was just one aspect rather than the focus.

but somehow it didn't take that turn. But I think I would have been very open to it if I wasn't in a relationship right now that sustained me emotionally and physically.

Growing up in India, did you hear gossip about sexual relationships between women in the same household?

I had heard about some aunt who was playing around with another aunt. There was no stigma attached to it because it was non-threatening. Now, if a woman was having a relationship with a servant, that would be threatening because that's a class issue.

What was the reaction like in India at the International Film Festival?

The first screening was incredible.

I think the hall had a capacity for 1,500 people, and the doors were broken down. A lot of the men were really disappointed because there weren't many explicit scenes. It's not *Showgirls*, you know. When I came out [of the theatre], there were fistfights between two male groups. One group was ready to kill me. They were actually saying, "We are going to shoot you because what you have done is something not in our culture." And another group was saying that it was about time someone held up a mirror to us.

But there was a woman who was 70 years old, and she had come with her daughter and granddaughter. And the woman said, "Beti bahut achhi film. Sach hai. (Daughter, a very good film. It's true.)" For me, that was the most important thing. ▼



Deepa Mehta, director of *Fire*.

Fire

◀ page 49

about brides?" Radha says they eat green cardamom "for fragrance" and pops one into Sita's mouth. Sita moves close to her and asks if it's working.

Meanwhile, the household is falling apart in every possible way. Sita and Jatin have a slapping contest; Radha refuses to automatically acquiesce to her husband's demands; and Radha catches the servant Mundu nervously masturbating in front of a video, *The Joy Suck Club*, with the mute Bijji watching in horror in the background. The latter scene is one of

several black-humor touches that nicely modulate the director's polemic.

Contrasted to the violence and dark humor is Sita and Radha's loving relationship, which persists and becomes more brazen, a fact that doesn't go unnoticed by Mundu. Sita draws her strength from the image of the flower field that opened the film and continually reasserts itself as a symbol of her hope. Radha draws her strength from Sita and clings to their relationship in spite of Mundu betraying her to her husband.

If all this feminism and lesbianism and attacks on the status quo weren't enough to unhinge

male audiences, surely the tragicomic presence of Bijji would be. She's a potent symbol of an impotent Old India — wizened, mute, helpless, carefully dressed, and powdered each day, and carried around the room with a ridiculous little bell in her hand, which she can ring to indicate distress or

need. Bijji is the pitiful, absurd form that tradition takes when a vital modern woman like Sita arrives with new ideas. ▼

Fire opens Friday, September 26 at the Castro Theatre. Call 621-6120 for information.

'Rigoletto'

◀ page 50


tenor who has trouble singing Pinkerton to do the Duke? If they don't, why are they in charge of casting for the SF Opera?

Thompson's biography claims performances of the Duke in London, Berlin, Vienna, and a handful of other major cities — hard to believe given his inadequate performance at the premier. He began with a moderately attractive voice that was used bluntly, and went downhill from there. There was no sense of the Duke's commanding elegance or sophistication. As the evening progressed, Thompson began scooping up to notes and singing off pitch, when one could even hear

him.

Neither Thompson nor anyone else in the cast was helped by David Robertson's driven, tubby conducting. The less said about Mark Lamos' production the better. The inappropriate de Chirico-inspired sets by Michael Yeargan clashed with Verdi's opera at every opportunity. Pat Collins' garish lighting (borrowed from a late '60s disco with its use of black-light effects) clashed with everything, especially Constance Hoffman's costumes. Poor Verdi. And with tickets costing as much as \$145, poor Verdi lovers. ▼

Rigoletto continues through December 6 at SF0 (with cast changes). For tickets, call (415) 864-3330.



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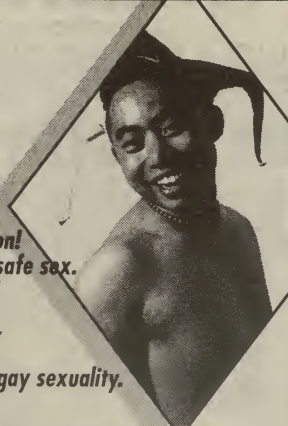
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BOOKS

Fabulous Forrest

by Deborah Peifer

Apparition Alley by Katherine V. Forrest; Berkley Prime Crime, \$21.95

The problem with using superlatives in reviews is that authors will get even better, and then this poor critic comes right up against her own limitations as a writer. Last year I praised Katherine V. Forrest's *Liberty Square* to the skies. Her newest Kate Delafield mystery, the sixth in that noble line, clearly illustrates that when it comes to so prodigious a talent, the sky is not the limit.

The novel opens with what seems like an everyday arrest, but something happens on page two that makes all things anything but ordinary. "Kate heard a *click*, and in that blood-freezing instant she understood what it was and that it came from behind her." In that moment, when Kate is in danger, the stakes of this novel are raised significantly. And that's only the second page; there is much more to come. Forrest manages the suspense with consummate skill, relieving our anxiety briefly, then introducing another element of danger, so that we never really relax because Kate is never safe. Anything is possible, and all of the possibilities are terrifying.

Apparition Alley is the first of Forrest's novels that I would call a page-turner. It's not that we didn't care what happened in the earlier books; of course, we did. But I



Author Katherine Forrest

found myself racing through the pages because I had to find out what was going to happen. I read *Apparition Alley* twice because I couldn't stop long enough to take notes the first time through. Let me assure you that the novel holds up very well on a second reading.

Forrest is a master of the police procedural; an important part of *Apparition Alley*'s plot concerns a department investigation of another cop. The ways in which the police obstruct and obfuscate are handled with real skill and frightening credibility. The internal affairs investigation dovetails with Kate's own situation as a wounded officer who has to meet with the department shrink before she can return to duty. We've seen in the earlier novels the ways in which Kate Delafield can avoid and suppress her own feelings. The scenes with the psychiatrist

are particularly painful, both for Kate and for the reader, given the ways that Kate struggles mightily to hang on to every defense mechanism she can muster.

Apparition Alley has a lot of little scenes that are real gems — the meeting between Kate and the bag lady, Rosie, in the alley is one such jewel. Forrest creates a complete character in a few words, and then tells us volumes about Kate because of how she reacts to Rosie. In that scene, we get to see a side of Kate that her lover, Aimee, for example, will never experience. We learn a great deal about who Kate is in a few well-chosen words, and the result is intense.

As always, Forrest has a greater agenda than mere entertainment, although *Apparition Alley* succeeds hugely on that level. The pleasure of the tautly constructed plot cannot overshadow the depth of this novel. If the main theme is the destructive power of homophobia, and I think it is, the sub-themes of police corruption and the corrosive force of secrets support that theme and reveal the many facets of the damage homophobia causes. Kate's struggle with the idea of coming out, or more accurately, her stubborn refusal to see just how much her own closet is destroying her, is particularly well-done.

The connections in this novel — of plot to theme to character which takes us back to plot which illuminates character which develops thematic concerns — make *Apparition Alley* impossible to put down. ▼

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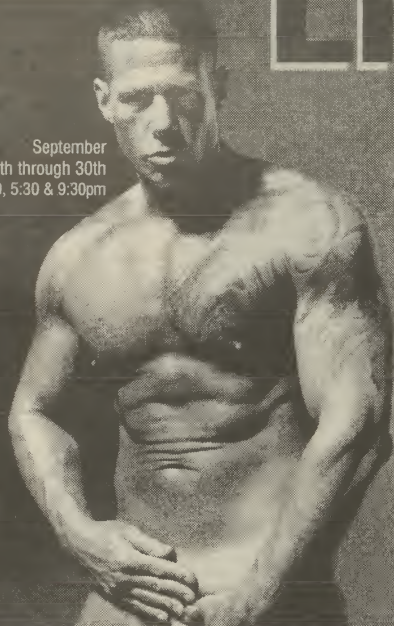
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Edmund White

◀ Arts cover

book), I got sort of short-tempered, and I said some unreflective things.

I disliked some of the early attempts to make AIDS humorous, because I felt that the humor wasn't a humor of situation, but a humor of shtick, applied to an intolerable situation. There was this kind of borscht belt approach: "Oh well, this is just another one of life's travails, and we can overcome this, too, as we laugh our way into oblivion." I wasn't so sure I liked that. I was turned off by David Feinberg's book *Eighty-Six*, which had a brilliant idea, of before-and-after AIDS, but the humor showed he was on too cozy terms with his subject, as though he was taking it in his stride. But now that I've tried to write a book on the same subject, I have a lot

more sympathy for him, and I've injected quite a lot of humor into my book, too. And anyway, he's dead, poor thing, and he was a very good writer, so I don't mean to be harsh about him.

When you started *Symphony*, you thought it might well be your last book, but here you are, having lived with HIV for over 10 years. Did the advances in AIDS treatments affect the writing of your book?

I think so. The explicit message at the end is not particularly optimistic, but I think that you feel a kind of *joie de vivre* in the writing, a kind of excitement and vitality. If you were very depressed, you probably wouldn't write that way.

You know we have a pretty sex-positive queer subculture here in SF. You've written a portrait of a man with a healthy appetite for sex, and you've taken flak from

some Neo-Victorians about it. Why can't people understand that it's not the number of sexual partners one has, but the type of sex one has that puts one at risk?

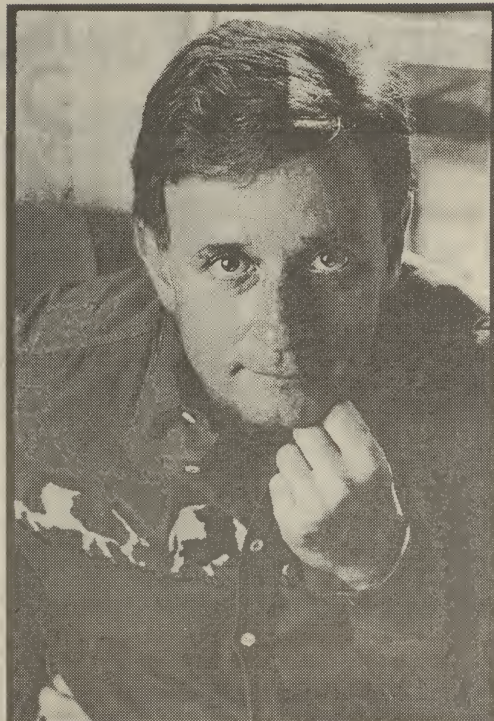
Bravo, that's just what I think. Either you believe in safe sex, or you don't. If you don't, then you should be totally abstemious, and if you do believe in it, it doesn't matter how many partners you have, as long as you always practice safe sex. Unless alcohol is involved. If you're going to back-room bars where people drink a lot, and we know 25 percent of gay people have a drinking problem, then you do let down your guard, just like Princess Di's driver let down his guard... People do take all kinds of chances and feel that they are immortal when they're drunk, and that's a danger. But all the studies show that you're more likely to let down your guard with a boyfriend in a bed than you are with a stranger... if you're sober.

The sheer number of sex partners you've admitted to seems to boggle straight people's minds.

There's a latent Puritanism always in America; after all, it was founded by Puritans. Today's Puritans seized on AIDS as a way of reinforcing their own hidden agenda of let's all stop having sex. Kramer was already writing that in *Faggots*, before the AIDS crisis. So it's an example of where certain people's dysfunctionality coincided with the disease.

In France, there was a pro-sex AIDS campaign with the slogan, "You must not abstain!"

If, as you write, "Americans serve




Edmund White in a photograph from 1988.

themselves and their friends up as stories," then this book is a big, piping casserole. It's also somewhere between fiction and memoir. Some characters are given their real names (Foucault, Burroughs), while others (James Merrill, Virgil Thomson) are given fictional names. Why?

As the book goes along, it becomes more and more documentary. First it reads like a novel: the early scenes in Italy, and the period of cruising and picking up boys in late '60s, early '70s, have a lyrical tone. Whereas the last 70 pages are much drier and urgent

next page ▶



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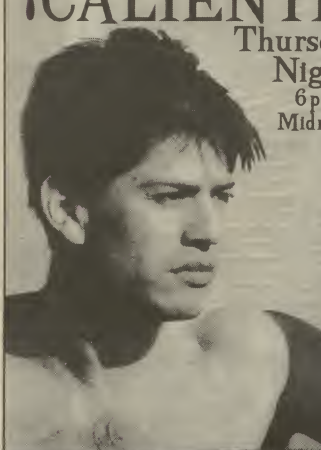
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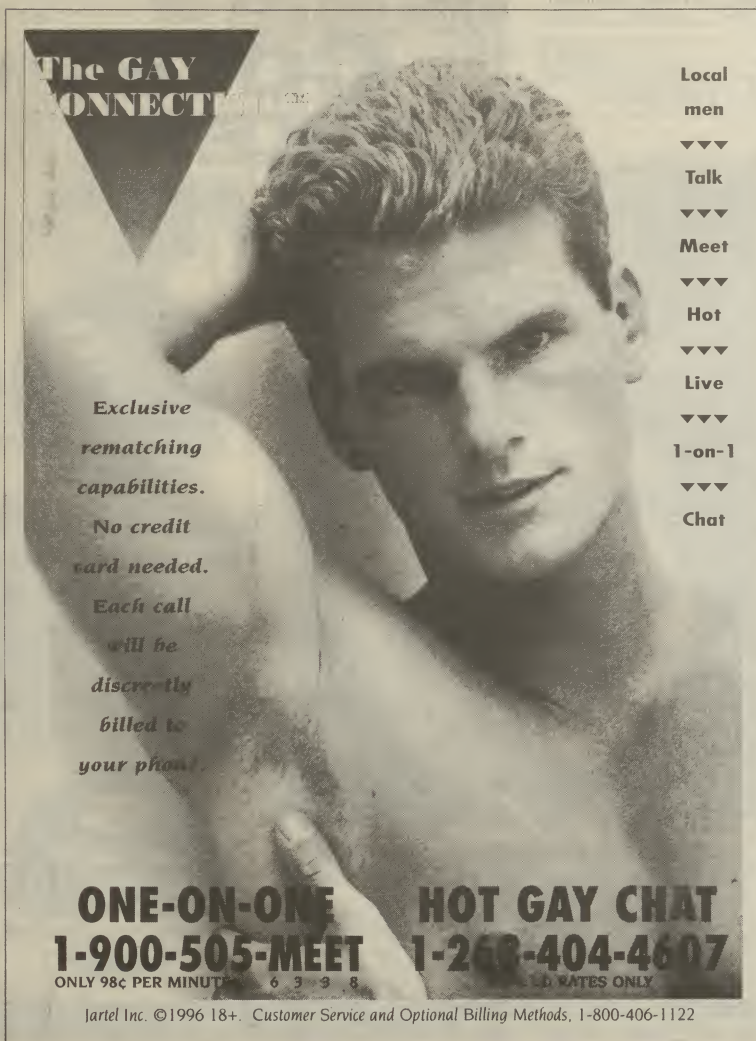
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ARTS

Edmund White

◀ previous page

and more reportorial. The real names fall into that part of the book, as you get closer to the present. It's a kind of master strategy for the three books together. *Boy's Own Story* is the least like a memoir, the farthest from what really happened to me, it has a kind of mythic or dreamlike quality. This book, especially as it nears the end, becomes more concrete. Almost as though we begin as children being these vague, undefined states of mind or moods, and as we approach maturity, we take on more edge, become more and more creatures of our particular period rather than life in general.

What are your plans?

I'm going to be teaching at Princeton in the spring, and I'm angling to get a teaching job back in America and move back, so I'm playing footsie with Stanford, University of Texas, and Princeton. We're moving into an era when there's more pressure on writers to write big, best-selling books, and mid-list books are dropping out. Excellent writers like Michael Upchurch, Matthew Stadler, and Sarah Schulman have run into real trouble. The last three books that I proposed to Knopf got turned down, and I would like to set up my life in such a way that I don't depend upon advances to pay all my bills. I could live off a salary as a teacher, and then write exactly what I want to. Because to me, writing has always been about freedom, and I've never succumbed to outside pressures about the nature of my work. I'm happy to be a whore in promoting my books, I would put on a little skirt and dance if that was necessary. If it would sell copies, I would go on *Oprah* and sob with my nephew about "incesting" him! But I don't want to change the book itself. That's the only area of integrity in my life.

This new book really is like a symphony: it has its thematic material, its moods and movements, its sudden reveries.

It's more like a Sibelius symphony than Haydn. A Haydn symphony is so buttoned-up and reduced in its themes and variations, very classical and pure in its form. Whereas a Sibelius symphony feels almost like an act of nature, you can't figure out where it's going and why, and it's very mercurial. That's more the kind of symphony I wrote. ▼

David Mills

◀ page 47

veloped last year at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts and enjoyed a run last winter at Josie's Cabaret. Although this solo performance has yet to leave San Francisco, Mills has staged other pieces in theatres across the country, including *Highways* in Los Angeles; *SUSHI* in San Diego; *Wings Theater* in New York; the D.C. Art Center in Washington, D.C.; and *That Uppity Theater Company* in St. Louis. Catch him while you can. ▼

The Wedding Banned plays at 9:30 p.m. September 26 and 27, October 3 and 4, at the Y.P. Theatre, Fort Mason, Building C. Call (415) 392-4400 for tickets and information.

Yo-Yo Ma

◀ page 51

trically tuned No. 5 in C Minor, and No. 3 in C Major — there was a palpable sense of the six-movement format unfolding as a single musical exhalation of jaw-dropping range and variety.

Judging from Monday's performance, Ma has arrived at a more expansive view of baroque expression. Whereas in the past there was a stronger sense of

bourees, music of an expressly more dance-like character. In my long acquaintance with Ma in this repertoire, I've not heard him probe more deeply into the soul of the sarabandes or spring so graciously back into the more dynamic world of the dances that follow.

The concluding giges were marvels of movement at their most weightlessly soaring. The sense of breathless perpetual motion in the Gigue to No. 4 was astonishing for its immaculate deliv-

Judging from this performance, Ma has arrived at a more expansive view of baroque expression.

contrast at the local level — repeated phrases and note groups were dispatched with a more pronounced sense of variety — Ma now appears to be more interested in the juxtaposition of whole movements within individual suites. This was most apparent in the movement from each suite's Sarabande — the center of gravity and slow-beating heart in all three cases — to the ensuing gavottes and

ery, and the sheer sense of elevation in the Gigue to No. 3, which ended the printed program, seemed a glimpse of something as close to perfection as human hands, ears, and hearts are allowed.

A single encore, the famous prelude to the G-Major Suite No. 1, gave the Davies audience a recapitulation in miniature of the long-breathed arc of these astonishing pieces and the ecstatic vistas at their peaks. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Untitled (Portrait of Dad)
by Felix Gonzalez-Torres

Now art

At the center of *Present Tense: Nine Artists in the Nineties*, a group exhibition at SFMOMA, is the elegiac work of the late Felix Gonzalez-Torres, beautiful in its simplicity, conceptually magnificent. Perhaps it says something about the current moment in contemporary art that in a show of the work of nine young, spiritually adventurous artists, it's the art from the career tragically cut short which resonates the most.

Gonzalez-Torres's two portraits, *Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.)* and *Untitled (Portrait of Dad)*, are piles of hard candy spilling from the corners in opposite sides of a gallery room. The "portrait" of the artist's father consists of all-white mint candies, while the "portrait" of his lover is multicolored, a batch of variously flavored candies. Each pile matches the weight of its human subject in his weight in sweets, and by coincidence, both father and lover happened to have weighed the same at the time of their portrayal, 175 lbs. (It's reasonable to assume that the weight was distributed somewhat differently on the two men's frames.) Breaking with standard museum "don't touch" policy, here one is encouraged to choose a piece of candy and, by implication, pop it in one's mouth.

Boxes of individually wrapped candies line a far wall of the gallery, ready to replenish the artworks' supply. They rhyme with the art at the exhibition's entrance, Steve Wolfe's faux cardboard boxes, the kind you pick up on loading docks when you have to pack up your apartment. They're full to the brim with faux books that look exactly like the paperback copies of Joyce or Woolf you've hauled around since college. Wolfe painstakingly hand-crafts such mass-produced wonders as, say, vintage editions of Rimbaud, or vinyl LPs of the Beatles' *White Album*. ▼

Present Tense: Nine Artists in the Nineties continues through January 6 at SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. Don't miss Janet Cardiff's artwork, an audio-tour of the museum. Call for info: 357-4000.

Fri

Art of Leon

15 Assn. portrait artist, male erotic leather-themed drawings, prints. Open studio, thru 9/27, 4623 18th St.

Blab

Justin Chin presents reading, conversation with R. Zamora Linmark. \$5-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Ctr., 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Brothers for Sisters

2nd annual fundraiser for Lyon-Martins Women's Health Services links the gay and lesbian communities. #75. 5:30pm. City Club, 155 Sansome. 864-8523.

Cake and Lips

Ray McCrorey Jr.'s play about sex, drugs, and drag queen denial. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 9/28. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

En Drag

Seven of SF's finest female impersonators, hosted by Chablis and Alexandra. \$7. 9, 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Fetish and Fantasy Ball

Leather Daddies of SF host circus of fetish, fantasy, leather & latex, benefits AIDS Emergency Fund. \$12 advance, \$15 door. 9pm-4am. 21 + over. Club Townsend, 177 Townsend. 974-6020 #2.

Leather & Rubber

Rubber Corps host latex, rubber & leather fetish party, equipped play space. \$8. 9pm-2am. Call for details: 552-7975.

Lines Contemporary Ballet

Alonzo King's acclaimed ballet company opens 16th season. Thru 10/5, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$10-25. Center for the Arts, 700 Howard. 978-ARTS.

Mark Davis

Gay stand-up comic in multi-character revue. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/28. \$10-12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Neurotica

Corey Schaffer performs musical journey toward artistic and sexual ambitions. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 11/1. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Not Enough Rope

Elaine May's play, with *Annie Hauls* by Randy Paulos: two one-act co-dependent comedies. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/28. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Resurgence

Erotic art by Vince Gabrielly, Leon, Harry Tanner, more. Fri. & Sat. thru 10/26. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 551-7940.

These Are My Sisters

Martha Boesing's celebration of 70s feminism opens A Traveling Jewish Theatre's season. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 9/28. \$18. 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Umabatha

"The Zulu Macbeth," Welcome Msomi's epic South

African theatrical experience. Thru 9/28, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$18-32. Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

The Wedding Banned

Comedian David Mills' take on the slippery slope of marriage, part of Solo Mio fest. Fri. & Sat. at 9:30pm thru 10/4. \$10. Young Performers Theatre, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

Sat

Art For Life

10th annual art auction benefits Face To Face Sonoma Co. AIDS Network. 3:30pm. \$39. Friedman Ctr., 4676 Mayette, Santa Rosa. (707) 544-1581.

BACW BBQ

Bay Area Career Women BBQ, shared dishes and donations. \$3 parking fee. 11am-4pm. Roberts Park, Oakland. Call for info. (510) 682-2165.

Criunniú

Celtic Music and Arts Festival includes Richard Thompson, Ashley MacIsaac, more. \$12-15. Sat. & Sun., 11am-6pm. Lagoon Park, Marin. 472-3500.

Other Cinema

NY filmmaker Jerry Tartaglia screens Jack Smith's *Flaming Creatures*, more. \$5-25. 8:30pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.



Scholar Will Roscoe lectures on *Reclaiming Queer Spirit* on Sunday. See listing. (Pictured: The embrace of Eros, Attic bowl from 5th century B.C.)

& 12th Sts. 11am-6pm. 861-3247.

Real Bad IX

GRGR West hosts dance party, DJ Julian Marsh, benefits AIDS Legal Referral Panel. \$15 advance, \$20 door. 7pm-2am. 1015 Folsom. 273-1330.

Reclaiming Queer Spirit

Will Roscoe lectures on traditions of queer spirituality. \$5-7. 7:30pm. 1444 Market. 563-7277.

Sparrow 13 LaughingWand

Poetry reading with Horehound Stillpoint, free. 8pm. Paradise Lounge, 1501 Folsom. 621-1911.

Todd Friedman, Wes Grey Wolf

Photographer and collage artist exhibit collaborative works featuring tattoos, piercings, fetish scenes. Reception today, 3pm. Thru 11/8. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 626-0305.

Queer Arts Resource

Launch party for Fall 97 exhibition on world wide web (<http://www.queer-arts.org>). 6pm. Internet Alfredo, 790 A Brannan. 642-3624.

Ralph Nader Is Missing

Charlie Varon's play, extended thru 9/28. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm. \$17-22. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Route 80:

"Cars, Cows and Caffeine," Erin-Kate Whitcomb's multi-character emotional road trip. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/11, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Rubber Beer Bust

Rubber Corps, men in latex, rubber & leather, hold beer bust. \$7. 11am-3pm. Daddy's, 440 Castro. 621-8732.

SexArt 5

East/West radical sex photo slam, a group exhibition. Sat. & Sun., 1-6pm, thru 10/12. \$2. Mark I. Chester studio,

1229 Folsom. 292-3223.

Splash/sf

Pool party, DJ Jamie J. \$10. Noon-6pm. Phoenix Hotel, 601 Eddy.

The Unreality of Being

Henry Darger's outsider art, thru 11/30. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

What Makes It Queer?

Keith Hennesy performs Retro/Active, discussion moderated by Jonathan Katz. \$7-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Ctr., 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Sun

Bearatones/SF

Bear-identified vocal quartet perform at Folsom Street Fair. 1:15pm. 7th Street Stage. 861-3247.

Folsom Street Fair

Hundreds of thousands of leather-, latex-, and barely-clad revelers in SF's best street party. Folsom betw. 7th



This week in gay history: Eric Pendigar at the first-ever Folsom Street Fair, 1984. Vintage photograph by Jim James.

Mon

Chi Chi LaRue

Reads from *Making It Big*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

The Fabric of Life:

"150 Years of Northern California Fiber Art History" exhibition, thru 10/18. Art Dept. Gallery, Arts and Industry Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

Up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. MC Marilyn Pittman. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Ideas in Animation

Nik Phelps and the Sprocket Ensemble with Connie Champagne perform live music to new films. \$10. 7:30 & 9:30pm. Minna 2d. Gallery, 111 Minna. 681-3189.

Michael Johnstone

Color photography & mixed media on display, thru Sept. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Painted Tales

Works from artist Richard Taylor's sixty years of painting, thru 12/31. Veterans Bldg., 4th fl., 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Rebecca Bollinger

Art exhibition, with Lowell Darling, thru 10/11. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

Shiro Kuramata

Exhibition of works by Japanese designer, thru 12/12. SF-MOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Viscous Expectations

Color photographs and duratrans by Cara Judea Alhadeff, thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veteran's Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Tues

Australian Invasion

Melbourne Rainbow Band performs, with Ms. Penelope, Isabelle Ryan's Golden Tappers. Free. 8:15pm. Bethany

United Methodist, 1268 Clipper. 554-0402.

Colonial Noir

SF photographer Reid Yalom's pictures of Mexico. Thru 11/1. Sightings Gallery, 435 Bryant. 546-1132.

Financial District Side Show

Liz White, Bill Bernat & Bridget Schwartz in comic sketches on office life. Tues. at 8pm thru Sept. \$6-10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Free Food & Frontal Nudity

New musical comedy: Jed Feuer, Boyd Graham portray full cast of characters. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$22-35. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-TIXS.

From Negative to Positive

Solo show of artwork by Daniel Woods, thru 9/30. Flower Therapy, 3180 17th St.

Hungarian Photography

1920s and 1930s, Part II: exhibit includes works by Ferenc Csik, Imre Kinszki, more. Thru 11/1. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Outlaws and Obsessions

Outsider films and videos by Kenneth Anger, Tom Rubnitz, more. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/30. Noon-5pm. Free with admission (\$5). Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Particular Voices:

"Portraits of Gay and Lesbian Writers," photographs by Robert Giard. Thru 10/26. Skylight Gallery, Main Library, Civic Center. 557-4595.

Wed

About Face

25 artists explore the human face, incl. Robert Arneson, Rebecca Bollinger, Imogen Cunningham, more. Thru 11/24. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery. 983-4000.

A Certain Labor Day

Play written and performed by Carroll O'Connor: memories of a labor leader. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/26, call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$33-45. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.



"Flying" by Todd Friedman and Wes Grey Wolf, part of their show at Stormy Leather. See reception listing, Sunday.

Bay Area Award Show

Collaborative sculptors Castaneda/Reiman, video/installation team Halfpifers, and painter Alicia McCarthy: award-winners' group show, thru 11/15. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Great Moments...

"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Mem'l Opera House, thru 9/7, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

High Society

ACT's production of Arthur Kopit's adaptation of Cole Porter musical. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Masters of Light:

"Dutch Painters from Utrecht in the Golden Age" 17th-century art exhibit. Thru 11/30.

Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. 863-3330.

The Melting Pot

New paintings by Kico Govantes, thru 10/11. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Mexican Photography

Exhibition: five decades of works by Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Antonio Reynoso, and more. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/8. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0445.

Search and Destroy:

Punk Photography 1976-79 exhibition, thru 10/11. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

SF Games

Weekly board and card game group, free. 7:30pm. Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3680.

Two Amused

Gay Comedy Gold presents deadpan improv by Karen Ripley. Doug Holsclaw opens. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 10/5. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Thur

Allegory

Chris Komatar's installation includes 80 close-up images of a gay male nude. With Leonie Guyer's oil-on-velvet paintings. Reception today, 5pm. Thru 10/31. Patricia Sweetow Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-5126.

Cats

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical that won't die. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$37-67. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

Crimes Against Nature

Revival of 1977 play: stories of gay survival. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 10/25; call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Ellas en Accion

3rd annual awards banquet

for Latina lesbians & bi women. \$40. Cocktails 6:30pm, dinner 7:30pm. El Valenciano, 1153 Valencia. 985-7777.

Fever Dreams

Group show of SF artists, incl. Jeffrey Bernstein, Mar-que Comblatt, more. Thurs.-Sun. thru 10/12. Belcher Studios Gallery, 69 Belcher. 255-8900.

Mario Romero

New works on canvas by Mexico City artist, thru 10/20. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463.

Something For the Boys

42nd Street Moon's concert version of Cole Porter's 1943 musical. Thurs.-Sun. thru 10/19, call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$18-50. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Transgendered Portrait

Deborah Hammond's series: portraits of drag kings, drag queens, and transsexuals; with Todd Hido's House Hunting, thru 10/4. SF Camera-work, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials



Prime Rib with baked potato and creamy horseradish 11.95

Grilled Salmon with lemon-dill butter sauce, fresh seasonal veggies and mashed potatoes 9.50

N.Y. Pepper Steak with black pepper-brandy-cream, served with onion rings & french fries ... 11.95

Chicken Stroganoff with marsala wine, mushrooms & sour cream served over fettucini 8.95

Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th
Breakfast/Lunch served from 8:00 AM
Dinner from 5:00 PM nightly



SEXART 5

photo © Barbara Nitke

an east/west radical sex photo slam

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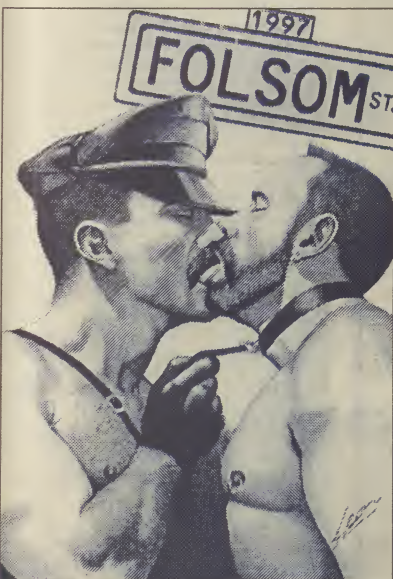


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Leon's take on the Folsom Street Fair, part of The Art of Leon open studio. See Friday.

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FOLSOM STREET FAIR
SEPT 28, 1997

MY PLACE

THERE ARE 2 KINDS OF MEN IN S.F.
THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN 2 MY PLACE
AND THOSE WHO LIE ABOUT IT

1225 FOLSOM (415) 363-2329

Here we go again!

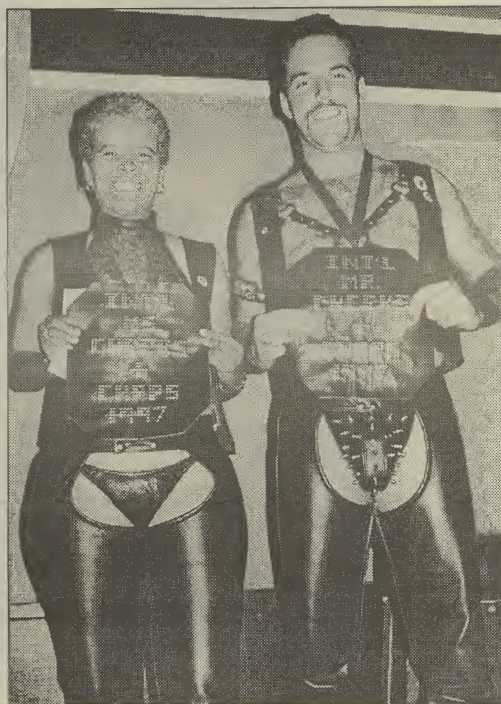
by Mister Marcus

The world's biggest leather party is upon us, even as you read this. People of the leather persuasion and others are arriving by plane, train, bus, car, motorcycle — and yes, even brooms. Several thousand are here already. San Francisco's Leather Pride Week is full steam ahead, and the two major events, the International Mr. Drummer contest on Saturday and the 14th Annual Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, are set to unfold before enthusiastic audiences who expect nothing but the best from "The City That Knows How."

The unofficial opening event was the International Mr. and Ms. Cheeks & Chaps contest at the Eagle, produced by the hard-working Alameda County Leather Corps, last Saturday night, Sept. 20. It was fun judging with the distinguished panel the two men and two women who braved the waters of competition.

As the emcees, veteran Donna Shrout seemed to be having a good time with first-timer Davien Nelson. There were some *real good lines* uttered throughout the event. Both Gary Virginia and I earned more guffaws that night than we have in the past six months!

There were two women contestants, Karen Smith and "CC," both of Hayward, and two men, Anthony Cunningham of SF and Frank Vasconcellos of San Leandro. It was a spirited evening throughout, marked by enthusiastic audience response. When it was all over, the judges picked Frank and Karen (already Mr./Ms. Alameda County Cheeks & Chaps) as the winners. There were a few items auctioned off by Thom Rodgers and raffle drawings for goodies, including a \$200 cash prize that was non-refundable. Good show and



The 1997 Intl. Mr. and Ms. Cheeks and Chaps Frank Vasconcellos and Karen Smith were sashed Saturday night, Sept. 20.

good luck to Karen and Frank, the Bay Area's newest leather title holders. We're all watching to see what they do with what they themselves described as a "do-nothing" title. Stay tuned!

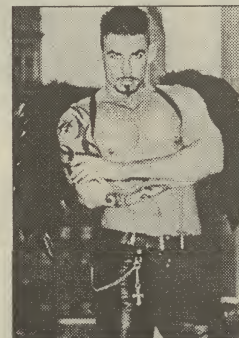
If the Leather Pride Walk and the Bare Chest Calendar men auction on Sunday is any indication, charity soirées during the coming days will haul in big bucks for their beneficiaries. The "official" opening event of leather week was the Leather Pride Walk on Sunday,

Sept. 21. The 175 marchers started arriving around noon, and signing up continued until departure time at 1400. Everyone participating got a handsome commemorative pin thanks to the generosity of the Powerhouse Bar.

David Kelsey, everyone's fave organizer, was perched on the back of John Fry's pickup, and he provided rousing musical accompaniment as the group wound their way down Market Street, flags flying, toward the Powerhouse pit stop. Then the revelers continued on to the Eagle, where they disbanded. Grant Dupont again carried the Leather Pride flag in the forefront. Walk organizer Art Tomaszewski (with a little help from his friends) beamed with pride while announcing that this year's event had hauled in a whopping \$9815.25 for the coffers of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The top amount of \$655 was raised by Daddy's bartender Ray Tilton. Leather Daddy XV Patrick Batt was second with \$500. Bare Chest Calendar man Andy Shore managed to raise some \$450 (and tied with Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt). The best group effort was put forth by The 15 Association, which raised some \$330.

Art Tomaszewski also announced that this is the last year



Steve Cannon stars in Titan Studios' *Fallen Angel*, which premieres at the Campus this Friday, Sept. 26.

LOADING DOCK

PRESENTS

SODOM IN THE CITY

A CELEBRATION OF LEATHER, FETISH AND THE SADOMASOCHISTIC LIFE STYLE

Thursday Sept 25, 1997 BOOT PARTY sponsored by BENT BAR RANCH at another location. Starts with a Buck Off meet and greet at Loading Dock from 8-11. Buck Off drinks to all men in BOOTS. BOOT BLACK available in the bar from 8 pm to 11 pm. Red Hunky night. We buy your second drink, if you show us your hanky when you purchase your first drink.

Friday Sept 26, 1997 HOODS, GAS MASKS, AND HEAD HARNESS EVENT. Use your imagination. SLAVE CHECK By Bent Bar Ranch from 10pm - 1am

Saturday Sept. 27, 1997 Another HOT DOCK NIGHT. Come early to avoid the rush. There will be a line! SLAVE CHECK by Bent Bar Ranch 10 pm-1am

Sunday Sept 28 1997 Fol**m St***T F**R 'NUFF SAID. It DOESN'T Get Any HOTTER! **BAR OPENS AT 6 P.M.** and the party continues until 2am.

Monday Sept. 29, 1997 PASSPORT MADNESS! SHOW THE BARTENDER YOUR PASSPORT AND DRINK FOR A BUCK OFF ALL NIGHT.

Tuesday Sept. 30, 1997 Jackhammer Reunion! WEAR ANY Jackhammer item and get BUCKED OFF ALL NIGHT.

Wednesday Oct 1, 1997 INK AND RINGS AND THINGS. A night of celebration of tattoos, piercing, brands and such. Any body modification gets you Bucked OFF for the evening.

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LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Please remember that there are hundreds of public and private events scheduled for this weekend. See front section for more festivities.

Thursday, Sept. 25

Wet & Wild Jockey Shorts contest at Daddy's, 2000. Win \$50 at the \$7 beer bust.

Mr. Drummer Basket Auction at the Powerhouse at 2100.

Leather Daddies art auction at the Eagle at 2100.

Mr. Lone Star David Rape's "Bears in Boxers" beer bust at the Lone Star - \$6 if in boxers, \$8 otherwise.

Artist Leon's gallery show opens 1100-1600, 4623 18th Street.

Friday, Sept. 26

Northern California Leather Association of the Deaf's "Drummer Last Supper" roast/beer bust for IMD Kyle Brandon and IMD Boy Mike DeNisco, 2000, \$8. Auction emceed by IMsL Genelle Moore and IM Deaf Leather Patrick Richardson.

Fetish & Fantasy Ball at 177 Townsend, 2100, \$10 advance/\$12 door.

Leather & Fetish party, 2100-0200, \$8. For location, call 552-7975 today only!

Saturday, Sept. 27

International Mr. Drummer finals, show and contest at Club Townsend. Doors open 1400; show at 1500. \$25 tickets available at door. Who will succeed Kyle and Michael? Victory party for winners at Daddy's immediately after the contest.

Official pre-Folsom Street Fair dance party, "Magnitude, the Black Party," at 610 7th St., 2200-0400 next day. Followed by "Short Circuit" at 715 Harrison, 0400-1100 Sunday.

The 15 Association's play party; call 673-0452.

Sunday, Sept. 28

The 14th Annual Folsom Street Fair, "Indulge," from 1100 to 1800 on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th sts. With hundreds of booths, three entertainment stages (7th and 12th), and a dance area on 10th Street. Meet Drummer men, buy a 1998 Bare Chest Calendar, and visit Mark I. Chester's erotic art show (1229 Folsom). Enjoy yourself and your leather family and friends! Lots of parties and dances! Stompers Boots emporium celebrates its first anniversary!

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Red Hankies Party at Daddy's, 2100, with a \$7 beer bust. With silent auction and raffles for the AEF.

Thursday, Oct. 2

"Basket of Baskets" contest at The Edge, with all the previous winners. No details furnished at my deadline.

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2030-2230, courtesy of Blow Buddies and the Stop AIDS Project.

Saturday, Oct. 4

Journeyman II Academy Graduation and Benefit, 1900-2200, with \$7.50 beer bust and \$7.50 buffet - or \$12 for both - at the SF-Eagle.

Golden State Bears' beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900. No other details furnished.

Sunday, Oct. 5

Cal Eagles MC's Oktoberfest \$7 beer bust at SF-Eagle, 1500-1800. This one is always a lot of fun. Castro Street Fair!

Deadline for Golden Gate Guards MC weekend to Camp Mendocino, \$110 now or \$135 after today!

he will produce the event, so it's up for grabs by anyone who has the gumption, dedication and temerity to continue a tradition that is near and dear to the leather community. Let me know if you're interested!

However, the day was not over yet. After the marchers fanned out to have a few well-deserved libations, the 1998 Bare Chest Calendar men were introduced, and six of them were auctioned off by Lenny Broberg with Martyn Jones playing the Vanna White role. Dinners, limousine rides to *Beach Blanket Babylon* and a Fleetwood Mac concert, videos and other goodies pumped almost \$4000 into the coffers of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The leather community again came through with flying colors, and I trust that certain members of the AEF Board of Directors will refrain from referring to our tribe as "those people"! In case some AEF board members are ignorant of the fact, let me remind them that the AEF was founded by leather men and their adherents, people who deserve respect for all their fundraising efforts and unserving loyalty!

Hey, leather pride week, San Francisco-style, is upon us! Make sure all our visitors are accorded the courtesy and help they need. Have fun and exercise good judgment at the Folsom Street Fair. Remember, there are nudity laws,

so don't get yourself in a jam with overzealous authorities. Thanks to all of you for supporting the many fundraisers going on. Also, good luck to all the International Mr.

Drummer contestants. See you all next week with the results of the contest and the local dish. Have fun, play safe, but above all, celebrate our chosen lifestyle! ▼

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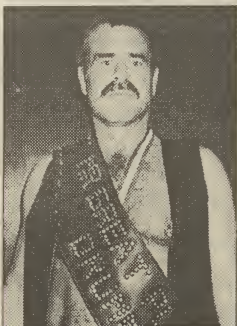
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AIDS EMERGENCY FUND
EDGE - 449 18th Street San Francisco (415) 863-4027



Mr. Great Plains Drummer
Mike Wren competes for the
IMD title this Saturday, Sept. 27.

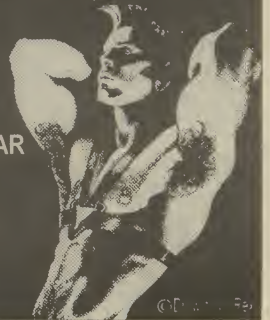
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PARTING GLANCES

8/28 MB450 Conv. Mkt/Franklin
We said hello from cars at Market and Duboce and followed each other onto Franklin at about 8:15 PM. Sorry I was in hurry. Let's connect. ☎ 7901.

John at Video Shop on Geary
A few months ago we met in a video booth. You: 31yr old. I gave you my phone #. I'm Ray, 27. Would like to see you regularly the way you want. ☎ 7903.

Matt-Towns End Restaurant 9/1
"You're beautiful," is what I said to you. And I meant it! You teased me with your smile. I sent you a mimosa. We chatted briefly before you drove away. Drive back into my life—we can smile together! Andre. ☎ 7904.

12/28/96 Universe was Closing
Greg, your words kept spinning through my mind keeping me on some whimsical high. This is the guy in the white truck. Still looking for you but to no avail. ☎ 7905.

Joseph at the Cinch Bar
You: pool player, tall, brown hair, blue eyes and very sexy. We fooled around in bathroom at the Cinch, on 8/30. Me: cute Asian, short and nice. Call me Joe. ☎ 7906.

Korean Boy-Muscle System 8/30
I'm the buff GWM you met. You said I had an unusual accent. You gave me some workout tips. We flirted. I'm interested. Why not call and open the door? ☎ 7907.

9/5 Ray at Power Exchange Main
We met in glory hole booth downstairs. You: bleached hair, tall. Me: baseball cap, young, passionate kisser. We laid together in Teepee upstairs until closing time. I liked you, leave message. ☎ 8001.

Tony Steamworks
You called. We were going to get together on Tuesday. I didn't get your #. Call Stephen. We'll have a good time. ☎ 8002.

Todd at the Kabuki for "Mimic"
8/23, you were with a friend, I was with friends. Me: Chris, 6', 190, black. Please call. ☎ 8107.

Cafe Flore #40 9/7 AM
You: tall, c/n sh, blue shirt & big khaki shorts w/friend. Drove magenta VW. Me: 5'10", drk, c/n sh, blue shirt & pants. Eyes met, let's talk. ☎ 8003.

WS Event Wed 9/10
You: no shirt, faded blue jeans, Swedish looking. Me: boot jeans, w/keys. Out door patio, my quest was on his knees, you put your sexy soft hand on me, my greedy quest moved your hand away—I am very sorry, would you like to have dinner w/me? ☎ 8111.

Latino at Pasqua Sat 9/6
We first exchanged glances at gay parade. You were safety monitor. I am stocky white male, blue eyes, balding. Want to meet you. Please call. ☎ 8004.

John at Cave, San Gregorio 9/1
I told you it was nice meeting you, as you were leaving beach that afternoon. Would like to do you again, only with no interruptions this time. Ken. ☎ 8005.

Sausilto Arts Festival 8/31
You had on a yellow shirt. I was wearing a white T-shirt and shorts. We exchanged glances but you were leaving so I didn't get a chance to say hi. ☎ 8006.

9/2 BART Mont to 16th 6:30PM
You: tall, goatee wearing navy Nike polo shirt. Me: Latino, blue shirt. Sat next to each other. Want to say hello as train broke down, but too shy. Let's meet. ☎ 8007.

Outside Harvest Market Sat. Aug. 30
You: cute, short brown hair, indigo blue T-shirt, ate pasta. Me: tall, sunglasses, indigo blue T-shirt, shorts, sipping drink. Sat next to you on bench. Call. ☎ 8008.

Rob from San Mateo 8/24 Sat
Birthmark right shoulder. On a BMW. We did 4:30 after Mack. Gave you my number, please call Stephen in SF. ☎ 8009.

Virgin Megastore Aug. 29, 4PM
Early evening, you with friend in bicycle helmet with three green dots. Me: tall, bald, black guy. We made eye contact a few times. Wanna do more? ☎ 8100.

Lynn M with the Great Muscles
We met at RRR. You called; I was home but working. Just missed you, regrettably. Please call again and leave your number. Bob. ☎ 8011.

Tosca Stander Tues. Sept. 9
You: silver pendant on black spandex shirt, glasses, curly hair. We discovered the secret parapet during intermission. I want to know you. Please call me. ☎ 8012.

Whole Foods Sun 9/7
You: white shirt, blue jeans, hairy arms. Me: blond, curly hair, blue T-shirt. Didn't know if your friend was a boyfriend. If not, let's talk. ☎ 8013.

Bay Bridge Sat 9/13 5:30 PM
You: handsome bear in blue Blazer. Me: blond in Wrangler. Enjoyed exchanging 9 miles. Let's meet and get to know each other—Dinner?? ☎ 8014.

The Cafe 9/15 You: Cute Blond
With stunning blue eyes, sitting by chalk board upstairs. I was the Pacific Islander standing in doorway behind you. With your friends, so didn't approach. Would love to meet. ☎ 8114.

Blond Fri 9/12 Zapata Taqueria
We said "hi" and exchanged glances at 9PM on Friday. Me: Latino, in-shape, white shirt. You: seem occupied, why? Pls call. ☎ 8102.

Watersports at Sling 8/13
You: jeans, hairy chest, glasses, trim build. Me: jeans, white tank top, trim build, on my knees draining every drop. More please. ☎ 8103.

Spanish Eyes Sunday at the Sun 9/14
Midnight Sun. Early evening. Check shirt, white cords, drinking water. Beautiful eyes. The smoke drove you into the rain. Give me a call. ☎ 8104.

Inside Stephen
A heart that beats uncontrollably for a blonde boy named Aaron who works at The Cafe. Wondering if dinner and, maybe, cookies and cream ice cream sounds nice. Thought I'd try. ☎ 8105.

Great America
Jim (from Marin), hesitated too long and lost you, partner and I thought you were quite attractive and a nice guy too! Maybe this will find you. Bill. ☎ 8106.

Bell Market Noe Valley 8/28
Early evening, you with friend in white car, me in white Jeep. We smiled and cruised each other in the store. Please call me. ☎ 7902.

Castro Station Sun 9/7
You: tall redhead w/buzz cut. Me: 5'5", brown hair, glasses, playing pool—exchanged hellos. Later saw you at Edge. Would like to know you better. ☎ 8108.

Davies Med Ctr 9/11 3 PM
You: tall, dark, handsome, red tank top & bike. Me: blond/blue, mustache, shorts. We smiled in elevator & again on Castro. Please call. ☎ 8109.

Full Moon: A Different Light 9/15, 10 PM
Exchanged glances in bookstore, hello's outside Cliff's. You: short, dark, handsome, w/compact, well-built body, great smile. Me: b/bro, goatee, 5'6", 140#, red Mexican shirt. Wanna coffee? ☎ 8110.

Hunk @ Eric's Labor Day
As long as there is a smile on my face, you'll always have a place to sit...with no reservations & no waiting. ☎ 8014.

Dean @ Costco Mon 9/8 7PM
You: goatee, shopping with an Asian lady. Me: Asian with glasses, collegiate look. We talked briefly at the checkout counter. Thought you were busy. I was too shy to ask your number. How about a chat? ☎ 8116.

What's Behind the Smile Of AM
Putting bike into white Cabriolet, Franklin St., 9/15, 10PM. Me: GWM, black shirt, goatee, who tried to return the look you gave earlier in locker room. Interest? ☎ 8113.

Loading Dock on Saturday 4/19
You are an extremely handsome white guy with dark hair and a mustache, in full leather! Me: an attractive Asian talking to some old fat guy. Call me!! ☎ 8115.

Jack of Oakland
You are 40, hairy, horny, 155, goatee, 5'10". You sound perfect! This time leave your phone number! Box 7930. ☎ 8112.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Young GWM For Built GBM/GLM
I'm 24, 5'11", 155, gldk, prof w/edge, bl/bl. You: 25-39, hung, muscular, versatile, no STD, upbeat, sweet talked w/style, devotion, good life. Possible LTR. ☎ 7908.

HIV+ Valley Boy Wants City Man
Attractive, healthy, GWM mid 30's, blonde, blue, goatee, bottom seeks LTR with masculine top man. Live in Sacramento. ☎ 7909.

Would You Mine If I'm Asian
Hawaiian Filipino, 30's, 5'5", 138, HIV+ bottom seeking a masc, top-man, in shape, or stocky built & romance to nasty times, friendship, poss relationship w/ward interests. Any race, 25-50. A+ Puerto, Mid Eastern, Latinos & Irish, uncut. ☎ 7910.

GWM, 28, 5'10", 160
Healthy HIV+, Italian/German, seeks same, you: masc like me like myself, under 35. As terrific as I am, next to you I'd be even better. ☎ 7911.

Winning Top Sks LTR Bottom
GWM, 42 yo, b/r/b, mustache, hndsm, well built, 5'9", 170. Sks active bottom for lover, you be lean or in shape, authentic, fun, 25-40, looking for marriage and real love. ☎ 7912.

Man-Boy Seeks Daddy LTR
GWM, 6', 175, submissive, well built, hairy, buzzed, beard, healthy HIV+. Boy likes anal pleasure wants to explore BD, FF, various scenes. Big, hairy, hung, all +s. Call me sir. ☎ 7913.

Go with the Flow "Energy"
6', 160#, ice blue eyes, seeking an ethnic, black or the rare Caucasian who understands energy interchange between men. Intelligent, compassionate, adventurous, witty, caring, sensitive, honest, real, handsome, inquisitive. ☎ 7914.

Boy Wants to Grow Nice Abs
And get lean & trim on your program, sir. Set goal, supervise workouts. Let me lick your nuts & ass if deserved. Spank my bare ass hard when needed. Boy is 46, 5'9", 155, glasses, shaved, in-shape (hiking/yoga), nice natural body. ☎ 7915.

Smoldering Lust
Handsome, passionate, 35, 6'2", 180, stache/tee, HIV-, seeks sex buddy. You? guy next door, white, small waist, inexperienced but bottom curious. Discover the ecstasy. ☎ 7916.

Expert Cocksucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship mask, verbal toman, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 7917.

Nordic Educated Cultured PGWM
Gentleman farmer, semi-retired, solar scientist, environmentalist, naturalist, seeks companion to share the lively arts, world travel, conversation and possibly life on a beautiful farm. ☎ 7918.

HIV+ Friend/Companion Wanted
Blond/blk, slender, 6'2", 185#, clean cut, uncut, GWM, 34, seeking GWM, HIV+, cute, weight proportionate guy under 35. ☎ 7919.

Athletic Guy
Masculine, professional, witty, Asian, 49, 5'9", 150, physically active and fit, seeks clean-shaven, lean or muscular WM into workouts, hiking, camping, sports, dancing, ethnic food, travel and fun times. ☎ 7960.

Buddy Wanted
Healthy HIV+ GWM, professional, 5'3", 130 lbs, 50 yrs young, goatee, great body & soul—seeks Hisp, Asian or Black buddy, 30-40, under 5'8", for hot friendship and sex. ☎ 8015.

Cultured Redneck
5'10", 160, GWM, buzz cut & beard, 33yo, HIV+, country boy w/slightly jaded, sarcastic view of life. Looking for over 30 w/a life. ☎ 8016.

Attractive Latino
Good-looking Latino, 32yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee. Like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 8017.

A Gentleman Master's Delight
Handsome, intelligent, footboy, 27, seeks the guidance and authority of naturally dominant man who could appreciate a sexy, sensual submissive at his feet. Father/son fantasies, big feet, tall—all pluses. ☎ 8018.

ISO Romance
Me: GM, Eurasian, 6'1", b/r/b, 25/54 (and looking), 23yo, intelligent, exotic, attractive, spiritual, romantic, funny, loving. You be GWM, 25-35, similar qualities, sincere, thin, brainy types are a plus. ☎ 8019.

Sking Bi HIV+ E Bay LM/BM Top
HIV+ white male, 35, blue, brown, 6 foot, 185, healthy, employed, seeks HIV+ masculine men of color for friendship and fun times in the Concord area. Capricorn or Virgo gets committed LTR. ☎ 8020.

Leather/Diaper Boy ISO Daddy
Desire relocation for equalitarian relationship with caring, dominate, top. I'm 37, 5'9", 135#, 29" w, HIV-, eclectic social/sexual interests to include many diapers. Serious, h/wt proportional, safe, sane, Daddies only. ☎ 8021.

GWM 37 Sks Dates Friends & LTR
6'2", bl/gm, gd looking & 160#. Educated & employed. Value honesty, integrity/spiritual growth. Non/drunk/drug/smoke. HIV-. Reader. Seeking tall HIV- Mediterranean types, mid-30's. Love the outdoors & being naked. (Burning man was great this year.) ☎ 8022.

Masculine Muscular White Guy
Seeks similar, fun times, sex, maybe more. 5'11", 180 lbs, HIV+, w/no measurable sign of virus. You? Muscles, witty, good attitude. Like Hanks & Gibson. I'm handsome and 41. ☎ 8023.

GWM 23 Professional ISO Dating
Companion. I'm 5'8", 160#, light brown hair, hazel-green eyes, on the serious side of life. Seeking AM, under 30, N/S/D, no games, not into the "scene", whose flexible, unpretentious. ☎ 8024.

Dominant Italian
In-shape, 52, 5'8", 145#, long-time body-builder but don't acquire bulk. Seeking very muscular or naturally well-built boy to control, spank, massage, bind and bond with. ☎ 8025.

Looking for Someone Special
Attractive GWM, HIV+, 36yrs old, 5'9 1/2", 155#, b/rn hair, blue eyes, goatee, looking for Latino, Caribbean between 25 to 45 yr for friendship or more. Like hiking, swimming, exercise. I'm versatile and caring. I enjoy music & making amore. ☎ 8026.

Attn: White/Latin/Ital. Nudists
GWM Bear type, 39, 6'3", 225, drk hair/blue green eyes, mod hairy. Like guys 25-45, slim/mod build or h/wt reasonably prop. Tactical & sensual—get out, cuddle, watch movies, play, talk. Redheads/uncut A+. ☎ 8117.

Japanese Man?
If you've lived awhile in Japan you really appreciate them, culturally and sexually. I'm a youthful 50's GWM, tall and athletic, blond. If you are sensitive and slim, let's talk! ☎ 8118.

Romantic "Getaway"??
This guy would like to meet another man, 20-40, who would enjoy sharing a peaceful country cabin North of Russian River for romantic Sunday retreats or LTR. Tony. ☎ 8119.

Hoping to Find Soul Mate
34yo GWM, good looking, searching for best friend, lover, mate for LTR. 5'11", 190 lbs, honest, caring, real. HIV-. ☎ 8120.

Sincere, Mellow, Educated
Asian, 31, 5'6", 170, HIV-, nice guy, mostly a home body, out, looking for similar AM or WM, 28-35 yrs old, for dating leading to long-term monogamy. NS/ND. ☎ 8121.

HIV+ 5'10", 160, Blk
I like the ideal of being committed of having someone to devote myself and time to. Sorry! Not into chubby or bear type guys, thin to lean build only. You must be healthy and in fairly good physical condition. ☎ 8122.

Shy Top ISO Not-So-Shy Bottom
Fair-haired GM, 39, seeks dark-haired GM, late 20's-early 40's, for passionate, romantic, intimate relationship. ☎ 8123.

Wntd a Hefty Man
Who's 30 to 50, c/n sh, GW/L/A, overweight, bright w/a sense of humor. Me: Hisp, 45, c/n sh, 175#, 5'10", for poss. LTR. Looks like Raul Julia. ☎ 8124.

Nature Lovers
Good looking GWM, 48, 5'10", 190#, HIV+ healthy, seeks attractive/athletic GWM, 45-55, into cuddling, oral sex, hiking, movies, theater & dining. ☎ 8125.

Seeking Regular Guy
WM, 42, Mediterranean/Latino looks, 6', 155#, ISO GM for poss. relationship. Prefer uninhibited straight-acting men 35+ around Civic Center/Polk/Tenderloin area. no gay scene, gyms. Smokers OK. ☎ 8126.

Paramedic, Firefighter, Cop
Rescue-worker, late 20's-30's, beefy GWM? New to Sonoma Co. Looking for biking, motorcycle, hangout, etc. buddy. Be active, outgoing, w/good sense of humor. ☎ 8127.

GBM + GWM = Passion
Intensely spirited, mature & muscled GB "Man" & similar GW "Buddy." I'm an attractive, articulate gym devotee, eager to meet a gregarious GW "Man" w/ample brain & brawn. I like strong men w/strong personalities. ☎ 8128.

Are You Good Looking Hot Sex
I'm GWM, 31, 130 lbs, brn hair, goatee. I like leather, dancing, sci-fi, gardening, crafts. I prefer to be a top, but can be versatile. Smart, reserved. I need a good friend-possible long term. ☎ 8129.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

A Dick is a Dick is a Dick...
Till it's sucked real good and shoots its biggest possible load for the good sucker. For blow job well done. Let me show ya what I mean! ☎ 7920.

Hot Cockucking Agenda
1. Your hard cock. 2. Any size OK. 3. Sucked like no tomorrow. 4. You unload. 5. Clients repeat. 7. Discover why. 8. You deserve unloading these bigger loads. ☎ 7921.

Hot Sexy Erotic Boy
Very cute, very smooth body, young, experienced, 21yo, blond, clean, safe, gay sex wanted from young gay couples. Jocks a plus. N/S/D. ☎ 7922.

Service My Hairy Crotch
Sexy, little, hairy bear with pure top energy wants to hook up with hungry oral expert for long, hot, verbal sessions. ☎ 7923.

Love Sucks
...and so do I. If you're honest, masculine, HIV-, h/wt proportionate with a big, fat dick, I'm a nice guy, attractive, albeit short, 50, and enjoy mutual cocksucking. ☎ 7924.

Cocksucker WM 57 HIV- ISO You
You play with my nipples. I jack-off sucking your cock and balls, nice and slow. Slim built, HIV-, 40-40, any race. Safe sex a must. ☎ 7925.

Raw Bareback Bottom
This hot, handsome, muscular, butch, HIV+ GBM, 34 yrs, 175#, 5'10", with a smooth, hungry, bubble butt that likes it raw by in shape, masculine, GWM/GM, versatile tops, 30-55 yrs old. ☎ 7926.

Boy Needs Hung Dad Daytime
In LTR, need hung dad for daytime fun. I'm 6', 31 yrs, 185, mod-hairy, trim beard, b/r/b, good looking and hung, very oral—Be attractive and affectionate. ☎ 7927.

Fill My Hungry Manhole
Hisp GWM, 39, 5'11", bottom, w/light ass, big dick, shaved head, tattoos. Needs to service hot, nasty, well hung man. I love big dicks. Fill me up sir! ☎ 7928.

Hump My Butt with Big Dick
Muscular tight hard slender guy, 5'8", 170, 45, loves a quickie, day or night, but is in decent shape, weight proportionate, 30 to 50, hung! Oakland. Describe yourself. ☎ 7929.

This Fucker's a Bottoms Dream!
Hard body—enthusiastic long lasting. Intuitive, 44, 5'9", 165, average dick gives way above average performance. I love what I do. Call me. I'll come over. ☎ 7930.

Dig Being Nude?
This 6'4", lanky, smooth, hung nudist, 187, 40, seeks sensual buddy for hikes and beaches. Love nature, sun, cocks, and kissing. New new new to SF. ☎ 7931.

In Search of Dog-Slave
For ownership, collaring, obedience training. Bondage, SM, etc. Prefer young, small, slim or muscular, short hair breed. ☎ 7932.

A1 Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucked off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. ☎ 7933.

Seeking Ideal Italian Lover
If you look like Tony Danza, Dan Cortese or Antonio Sabato Jr., then you're exactly what I'm looking for. ☎ 7934.

Love Cock?? I Do
I haven't met one I didn't like. Let's get together & introduce our dicks to each other for fondling, licking & JO. Discreet play w/daily afternoons. 40's, 6', 168, stache, clean pleasant appearance. ☎ 7935.

Hot Handsome Marin GWM 35
B/r/g, masculine, hairy, HIV-, 5'8", 160#, seeks good looking fuck buddy/friend under 40. Versatile, Hispanic, Italian, uncut a plus. Today? ☎ 7936.

Wntd Deep Throated Cock Sucker
Older oral expert pref. by mature older GBM, HIV-, hung big, clean, uncut, med build, intelligent/civilized. Enjoy getting massage foreplay. Looks unimportant. Be sincere & available. Lve#times to return call (No pagers/voice mailboxes pls). ☎ 8045.

SP/peninsula Suck Buddies Days
Or early evenings. Dark, hairy, Latin/med look, tight butt, 5'11", 170, passionate kissing, rimming, tit-play. Discreet/no strings—your place preferred or outdoors. Singles/couples, 20-45. ☎ 8031.

Suck Me off nr Castro
Black guy always horny, 31, 5'11", 190, stocky, well-hung, needs expert cocksucker for morn, evs, & nights. your place, older guy preferred. Regular basis OK. ☎ 7937.

Hairy Rider ISO Same
Stocky, muscled, bearded, very hairy, healthy POZ, mostly top, swappable if you are POZ, stocky, muscled, hairy, mostly bottom, into working out, leather, 50HA, cuffs, ropes, and rough riding. ☎ 7938.

Hungry Butt
East Bay hairy bear, 35, bl/bl, gives hot ass to younger guys. Also versatile. Safe & clean. ☎ 7939.

I Wanna Suck Your Butt
Castro late night horny Italian stud wants to bury my tongue up your hot clean butt. Love to eat for hours. Kick back and let me eat you! ☎ 7940.

Asian Like Uncut Latino
Asian would like to meet horse hung Latino. Uncut for forekiss worship and oral sex and foreplay. ☎ 7941.

Linebacker Top Wanted
By tall, dark, masculine & handsome. U be big guy over 6'1", 200#, w/big tool. HIV+ that likes excellent service & likes to sweat. Kick back or call the shots. ☎ 7942.

Blond Top Hung 8 Thick!!!
I am a handsome, in shape, hairy chested, boyish top with a goatee. You are a bottom who wants slow, intense, sex play. Give a call and let's get it in!! ☎ 7943.

The Tongue wants your Hot Butt
Rub across my bushy mustache. Me: 6', 165, br/bl, 37yo, expert mouth. You: hot, trim & ready for a wild ride. ☎ 7944.

Bottom King
Hot sloppy white FF butthole ready for action seeking hot topman/versatile to explore/play together. ☎ 7945.

I Want It Everyday
Attractive dominant Italian top seeks young, masculine boy to fuck on a regular basis. you should be lean, defined, submissive and eager. ☎ 7946.

Hot Sausage in Orig. Skin??
U/C cocks excite me! Allow me to savor the flavor, uncover your cock-head & then cover it, put a tongue or finger inside, pull & chew on the overhang. 40's, trim, discreet has big flared ridge cut cock head for you. Wkday afternoons. ☎ 8027.

ISO Preppie-Looking Men
I'm looking for a dominant preppie/looking-type WM or AM who enjoys getting slow & sensual oral service all over by a 38 yo GLM. ☎ 8028.

Straight Seeks Shave & Massage
Masculine WM, 56, seeks mature WM to knead my lower back & buttocks, trim pubic hair, shave cock & balls and provide sensual prolonged climax producing CLB hand massage. ☎ 8030.

All Day Cock Sucker
GBM, early 40's, who interested in meeting other masc. GBM to hang out with. Come over watch the Monday night football games. HIV+, 5'6", 140 lbs, healthy. No fems please. ☎ 8033.

Polk Area Pleasure
Masculine, healthy POZ, GWM, 6', 185#, 44, balding/buzz, gym. ISO HWT proportionate, NS, local buddies for mutual expert oral. POZ a plus. Friendship and LTR poss. ☎ 8034.

Wanted: Average Sized Dicks
I'm tired of big dicks! I want to get fucked by a guy with an average-sized cock. Italian, 44, goatee, hot ass, great cocksucker, 6', 190#, horny. ☎ 8035.

White Boys Cock-to-Cock
Proud Black Domina, aged 50, professional & highly sexed, wants two white boys naked, cocks taped together, and more. Contact "Brownsugar." Be professional, respectable. ☎ 8036.

Anal Pleasures
Let me nibble on that asshole w/rim seat. Me: Hisp., hot, very attr., 40, 5'11", 165#. You: hot, in shape, young to 40 w/puckering hole and lips. ☎ 8037.

Asian Man Wants White Guy
Asian, 5'8", 149#, handsome, body builder, 28yr. Looking for GM, 20-42, to have fun, movie, travel, no smoking. Prefer your place. HIV. ☎ 8038.

Active Buddies Wanted
Wanted by healthy, happy Russian Italian cock sucking bottom for bike rides, walking tours, movies, beach, maybe sex. ☎ 8039.

Kiss Ass Cocksucker Slave E. Bay
Seeks master with mean streak to punish, degrade, humiliate, embarrass & train me. GWM, 48, good shape, seeks guy next door to worship, serve & amuse. No CBT/TT. ☎ 8040.

BD FF Dad
48, in shape, seeks adventurous sons for bondage, FF, & after cuddling. Dad, 6', 185, shaved head. ☎ 8041.

Folsom Street Fair
I'm taking you there on a collar and leash. You'll be wearing a leather strap face cage, mouth gage, tit clamps and chaps with your butt bare and plugged. Call. ☎ 8042.

Slender Bottom with Nice Butt
Boysish WM, 30, 5'9", 150, nice body & small shape but seeks tall WM top, under 45, for cock worship & submissive butt play. Clean only, no pain/STD's. ☎ 8043.

Hot Hung Top 8 & Thick
Hairy chest, goatee & handsome seeks bottom guys with shaved heads tattoos and a warm ass for intense sex play. Be sincere and willing. ☎ 8044.

Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Ass massage—erotic spanking. Me: attract, top, GWM, 47, 6'5", 250, football player's build. You: attract, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body hair/nice buns. Good kisser a plus. ☎ 8130.

Gym Bottom into Average Joe?
WGM, 40's, HIV+, average build, dominant verbal imaginative seeks very muscular bodybuilder exhibitionist bottom, HIV-, into taking orders showing off, giving head, taking dildos and more, at your place. ☎ 8131.

Unidentified, Maybe, But
Sucking you off is my best way to get a big load. Lemme demonstrate how really good cocksucking maximizes your load, pleasing us both! ☎ 8132.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/a big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 8133.

Black Top Wanted
With nice pole to fuck my hole in Oakland. White guy, 6 ft, 160#, safe. ☎ 8134.

Earthly Goods to Share
Have wheels, country acreage with cabin, and G.A.I. will share with the right masculine "take charge" partner in exchange for knowledge raising rabbits, winter gardening skills etc. Ric. ☎ 8135.

Hung GWM Daddy HIV-
ISO Asian boy for friendship and hot times. Prefer East Bay but can travel. Safe NS/ND. ☎ 8136.

Palo Alto Asian Cocksucker
Seeks men under 45 with 7 inches to suck off with no reciprocation. Mid Peninsula area preferred and within hours of 4AM to 1PM. ☎ 8137.

Hung, Uncut?
Sexy, horny GWM, 35, 5'9", 160, bl/bl seeks masculine, hung, uncut men to service. ☎ 8032.

Harry Crack
Meet Peter hard. 35/6'2"/180, handsome. ☎ 8029.

Deep Probe
Large probes needed for deep inner spaces; 2 immediate openings available. Apply within handsome, tall, blond, bottom. Complete accommodations guaranteed for all qualified applicants. A trip to remember! ☎ 8138.

ISO In-Shape Top
Good looking GWM, 35yo, 5'10", 170#, masculine, gym-toned, brn/gm, hung, bottom ISO good looking in-shape top for safe sex & a good time between 21-40. ☎ 8139.

Hot Nasty Boys Only
For extended sessions or ass play. UB: 25-35yo, GWM/GLM, good shape & love taking it! Me: GWM, 40yo, good shape, 5'6", 145 lbs. No BS/no attitude. ☎ 8140.

Need It Bad
GBM, 37, 200 lbs., hairy, who's a bottom. Seeking a easy going, spontaneous with a stable personality, who likes to have fun. ☎ 8141.

Get Spanked
31yo, GWM, 6'3", br/br, 195#, good shape, good looking. You are under 32, good looking, good shape, bubble butt. Wear your tightest jeans & get over my knee! ☎ 8142.

Deep Soak
Tight butt, deep throat available for hung men. Use your big tool to its full potential. ☎ 8143.

Husky Hairy Guys Turn Me On!!!
Like TT, enemas, rimming, dildos, FF, sucking dick, WS, kissing? I do, GBM, 200 lbs, healthy HIV+. Like HIV+ husky GWM & GLM w/facial hair. 36yrs to 50+. Be real! ☎ 8144.

Do Giant Black Cocks Exist?
WM, 29, 6', 210, brn/blu, seeks first experience with horse hung BM. I've heard about them but I haven't seen any. ☎ 8145.

Loose, Open Buttholes!
Love to kiss, lick, suck, eat, finger, shit. Into any of above, call me. ☎ 8146.

Asian Sks GWM Bottom
Chinese, 25, 5'7", 130#, smooth & slender seeks GWM bottom under 45. Mature prefer chubby but not fat. HIV-. Safe sex only. ☎ 8147.

Asian Muscle
Good looking Asian, 5'9", 175#, 170#, HIV+, 30's, seeks beefy guys for JO, body worship, group scenes, and safe fun. ☎ 8148.

Wanted Sadistic Top
Make this 37 year old, shaved-head, boyman your sex slave and torture subject. Your sadistic, hung, enjoy giving pain and rewarding role service with TT, CBT, pls. ☎ 8149.

Very Defined Abs
You: 25-35 yrs, thin to muscular, very defined abdominal, likes fucking, top or bottom. Me: 6'1", 185#, 38, muscular, prefers top fuck role but will go down if you're a top. ☎ 8150.

Spread Your Cheeks
For my hot, wet, talented tongue dancing in & out of your hot, clean, butty by handsome Italian stud, 44, 6', 195, goatee in Castro. Late night 12-5AM. ☎ 8151.

East Bay King
HIV POZ, in shape, pig butt ISO ragged men for mutual FF, WS. Big holes, big toys, big wrists, smelly pits a plus. Let's hand ball. ☎ 8152.

Rock Bottom
Hot WM, 30's, with buns of Doom. Tight muscular body. Looking for sex pot for man to man action. Serious only pls. ☎ 8153.

Aussie Action
WM, 30, looking to meet hot Australian for uninhibited man sex with muscular versatile local guy. Be hot. ☎ 8154.

Looking for Mr. Ebony
GWM, 44 years old, though most people assume that I look younger, like 30's, 6', 146#, blue/brown, goatee, gym-toned, top and HIV- seeking BM, 21-40, bottom, slim-build to average, masculine for hot times. ☎ 8155.

Work Your Tight Bubble-Butt
ISO in-shape, hot, hot men any age. Spread 'em wide! Sensual touch, tongue, finger, fuck. Me: 5'11", 184 musc lbs, 43, gdlkg, HIV+. ☎ 8156.

GBM+ ISO GWM+ Top
Healthy, HIV+, GBM, ISO GWM top to service. 185, 6', smooth. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 8157.

This Top's for You
Jim, a serious black top; 39, 170 lbs, 6', 9"—wants a hot, wet hole to fuck. You: sexy GBM or Latino. Lean, trim, masc and ready—then let's do it. ☎ 8158.

Love to Fuck & You're Serious
And you want ass that's hot, wet, ready & takes it. Sexy GBM, 39, lean trim, masc, goatee. You: HWT prop, masc & ready to fuck now! ☎ 8159.

Celebrate the Body Erotic
Mod hairy, bearded, long-haired Body Electric grad, 42, 5'10", 170 seeks sacred brothers & kindred spirits for on going massage exchange, friendship, support, sensual-erotic exploration & heartfelt pleasure & play. ☎ 8160.

GWM Foster City Area Seeking
Weekday fun HIV-, tall, masculine, 34, attractive, need ongoing discreet pal for non-relationship erotic meetings. Enjoy JO, tit play, fantasies, verbal, nasty. Interested? ☎ 8161.

Total Bottom
Need hung gay men 8" or bigger. 35-55 yrs who are serious & love to fuck. Less than 8" will be turned away!! I have hot butt & tight hairy butt. Love to be fucked your way. I'm discreet & submissive. Slim, short in very good shape & cute too. ☎ 8162.

Wanna Fuck Kenny Rogers?
Me: mustache, no beard, same body, hairy, HIV-, cut, 41, hazel eyes, 6'/235, new to anal (3 times) but will lie on my back for the right man. Age/race unimportant. Mustache, uncut, Latino A+. ☎ 8163.

Sleazy, Casual Sex?
Let's get together! WM, 41, bearish, love to suck (will get fucked for the right man), HIV-, hairy; looking for suck/fuck buddy under 50, any race. ☎ 8164.

Massage Wanted
By handsome, athletic, smooth, friendly, Asian male. From experienced masseurs. I enjoy full body complete firm oil massages. \$ 8165.

FETISHES

Experienced Leather Bottom
Seeks experienced Master for bondage and S&M. 40, 5'11", 190, masculine, good build/looks. Discretion required and reciprocated. Safe sex oriented. No drugs/drinks. ☎ 7947.

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Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 7948.

Chubby Men
I'm a GLM, 38, 6', 150#, drk hr and I enjoy giving slow sensual oral pleasure to very chubby men, hairy, facial hair A+. No drugs. ☎ 7949.

Hole Needs Filling
GWM, 5'11", 175#, 40yo, amputee. ISO tops. Smoke, drink, some party favors, singles and groups. Age and looks unimportant. All that matters is attitude. Bareback possible. ☎ 7950.

Slice of Bacon Tastes Great
On T-bone steak! Crispy GHM seeks beefy GWM for man-meet action, leather-tongue affection, & motorbike grease adventures. AM 36, 5'9", 130#, w/slim build. ISO bigger, badder, buddy. ☎ 7951.

Unusual Cock/Nut Modifications?
Interested in guys with radically altered genitals, split heads, heavy de-structive piercing, etc. Let's talk. Sex not necessary but OK. Want to examine and document what you've done. Serious only. ☎ 7952.

Pantyhose and Tights
Want to hook up for some pantyhose fun with other men. Not drag. ☎ 7953.

Your Feet
Your feet in thongs or sandals make me hard, make you my god, let me worship your masterful feet. I'm masculine, fit and attractive, looking for same. ☎ 7954.

Chest Play
Fit, tanned, hairy, outdoors man in SF with robust, shaved nipples and an eager mouth & hands is looking for another in shape buddy who enjoys hours of being playful & nipple pleasures. ☎ 7955.

Hot Guy w/Tow Ring Sks Barefoot
Buddy, Masculine, tan, good-looking East Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV- craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship possible. ☎ 7956.

Put me Over your Knee
Me: 21 years old, very hot, you: under 40, experienced and hot only. I'm a smart ass who needs to learn a lesson. Smack my ass until I squeal. ☎ 7958.

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My tongue will lick, suck and probe your ass. I prefer slim and hairy guys with protruding butt lips and big loose hole. I'm good looking, 48, 6'1", 185# & pleasant. ☎ 8047.

Clean Cut Ex Marine Loves Bikers
Me: 6'2", 200#, br/bazel, ex-college football, retired Marine. Look for clean cut guy for date to Starship Troopers. You: in motorcycle jacket. ☎ 8048.

Sweat Raunch Piss Wanted
By hot-mouthed Castro man with rimseal. Full oral service. Uncuts A+. ☎ 8049.

It's Still 1979 to Me
I still need an expert to deep throat my black Oakland telephone pole in 15 minutes, then leave. Please, no novices, busy phones, beads or goates, Indirect phone #'s. ☎ 8050.

Eat My Ass
Hot 30 year old, verbal rim top based in SF needs his beautiful ass sucked by a pro. ☎ 8051.

Wanted: Guys into Nylon Socks
GWM, 32, hot, 6'2", bl/bl, HIV-, seeks hot guys, 25-35, into nylon socks. Caress, smell, massage, pose in! Like big feet, hung, in shape, tops, sex too? Call! ☎ 8052.

Rope Bondage
Bondage enthusiast interested in Shamanism ISO a masochist, 20-45, for exploration & partnership. You must be in-shape, & serious. I'm 5'9", 185, uncut, experienced, sadist. Serious only. ☎ 8053.

Pumped Pig Seeks Raunch Top
Gym ripped & pumped raunch bottom hungry and thirsty for nasty top only. Park your butt on my face for scat & piss play. ☎ 8166.

Medical Top Sought
By btm, I have OR table, medical restraints, enema gear, cath, NS tubes, sounds, rubber and more. HIV-, NS, 5'9", 178#, clean cut, 40's, very discreet. ☎ 8167.

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Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 8168.

Drag Queens Only 69 All Day
Cigar smokers- tight ass + + +. Me: bisexual, WM, virgin fantasy to do with drag queen. ☎ 8169.

Bondage For Asians
WM, late 40's, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock/balls/tits and make you cum. Muscular a plus. ☎ 8170.

Piss on Me Baby
Hot man seeks piss scenes with enthusiastic, experienced watersports loving men. Filthy jack wants a plus. Piss no novices. ☎ 8171.

Leather Top ISO Trim Boy-Slave
GWM, 48, 160#, will train very submissive boy in bondage, bootlicking and obedience. You will spend time hooded, gagged and plugged. Hairless and pierced a plus. ☎ 8172.

Asshole Exams by Dr. Prober
WM in 50's, ISO WM or LM, thin, under 44, who wants their ass looked at & tended to. Prostates massaged as a dicks, balls & nipples. My office. ☎ 8173.

Former Top Wants to Switch
GAM, 33, good looking, athletic, smooth, HIV-, bubble butt, seeking bar/club, blond in order. Not enough to handle, control, force me to submit; spanking, BD, SM, other kink, hung A+. ☎ 8174.

Suck Boy Diapers & Plastic Pants
Missed getting in touch. Call Daddy now to collar you, diaper you and take you out. Pacifier will be tied in your mouth. You'll stay on a leash. ☎ 8175.

Cute Sub WM Sks Dom Bick Dad
Short, lean boy w/big balls & dick looking for dominant black Dad who is big & strong to teach me how to properly serve & please him. LTR is desired by boy, but subject to Daddy's needs. ☎ 8176.

To Live!
I dig short hairy, stash, goatee, or bare, rim, blind, blind in order. Love 69 sex, all kinds esp. oral/anal. HIV-, 42, 140, 5'9", uniforms, leather, jocks, levis, boots and totally raunchy! ☎ 8177.

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1 top hung 8 & thick, 1 bottom with a deep throat, both hot and handsome want versatile man for steamy session. Be brave and give us a try. ☎ 8054.

I'm Yours for Sex
GWM, 45, seeks couples for regular sexual sessions. Race & age unimportant. I have deep throat & bottom to serve both. Also obedient. ☎ 8178.

OTHER

Hot Tongue Videos
BM, 38, 171, 5'8", seeking encounter, any race, oral front and back, your place. Videos letter let's play toys welcome. ☎ 8055.

Nature Men
Looking to explore the erotic connection between men, earth, body, and spirit. ☎ 8179.

If You've Seen One...
Don't believe it for a minute, variety is the spice of life. Volunteers needed for photo essay. Let me photograph your dick. ☎ 8180.

Take a Step into Utopia?
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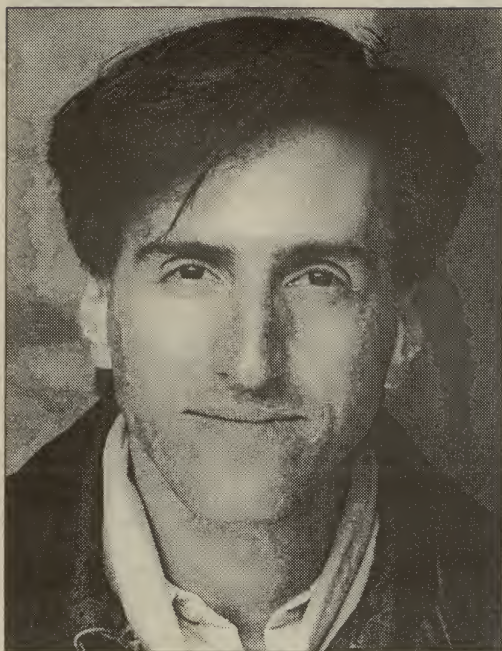
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Paul Rudnick

Club kids

by Chad Jones

Social Disease by Paul Rudnick; a Wyatt Book for St. Martin's Press, \$11.95

Anything written by Paul Rudnick is worthy of attention, if only because the man is one of the funniest writers around. Whether he's eviscerating the world of film under his pen name Libby Gelman-Waxner in *Premiere* or writing plays (*Jeffrey, I Hate Hamlet*) or movies (*Adams Family Values* or the upcoming *In and Out*), Rudnick has a lacerating wit that almost always inspires belly laughs.

Aware of this, the folks at St. Martin's Press have decided to reprint Rudnick's first novel, the unfortunately named *Social Dis-*

ease, and pass it off as something of a classic from the days of pre-AIDS club-hopping. Originally published in 1986, the novel isn't exactly pre-AIDS, nor is it a classic, but it is funny, sometimes even hilarious.

Though the novel, set in Manhattan, is filled with colorful, druggy, disco-happy people, the main character is the fabulous Club de. It might as well be Studio 54, or any other mega-trendy club that has come and gone over the years in a blaze of 15-minute glory. The minions wait in a pulsating mass behind the barricades while the beautiful and wealthy are given entrée to wallow in the decadence of the pulsating beat and the heady air of fleeting celebrity.

The chief inhabitants of Rudnick's club world are Guy Huber,

a Park Avenue brat whose chief aim in life is to sleep; Venice, his new wife; and Licky, a gay, do-nothing maid who is always having sex with gymnasts in bathroom stalls.

A plot eventually appears when Guy is forced to get a job for the first time in his life. After a series of misadventures, he ends up in jail, with Venice and Licky in tow. Eventually bored with the good life in a preposterously posh medium-security prison, they escape to Manhattan only to find Club de the victim of changing tastes.

Except for the entire prison episode, Rudnick's novel is a big, glossy, sardonic valentine to the New York club set. For all their insanity and stupidity, Guy and his crew are pretty lovable, which makes the comedy that much more rewarding. ▼

Out There

◀ page 43

al melodrama" as a former priest-turned-New Orleans cop who encounters the ghost of a law enforcer from the '50s. Naturally, the show, like all television products, will be insipid and pointless, but what's potentially interesting about the series is that it's being penned by *Interview with the Vampire* author Anne Rice, who has never minded seasoning her work with a little lavender love dust. Maybe Ms. R. will provide Mr. C. with the inspiration he needs to pry open that big closet door?

Nazi talk

And now it's time for yet another installment of *Great Nazis in the Concert Hall*. You can only imagine our shock and surprise when one day last week we arrived home from a long, arduous day at the office, opened our mailbox, and out fell a video from the New York-based Bel Canto Society called *Great Conductors of the Third Reich*, starring some of our favorite music-makers. At first we thought this was some sick joke, but when we popped the video into our VCR there they were, several of the 20th century's greatest conductors, shown in rare concert footage, conducting for Hitler's Reich. Though apologists of all stripes are forever saying these guys "knew nothing," "weren't involved," "avoided politics," the evidence here suggests something different. Among the highlights are *Wilhelm Furtwangler* conducting Beethoven's



Karl Böhm

Ninth at Bayreuth in celebration of Dolf's birthday, and *Herbert von Karajan* conducting the Berlin Philharmonic in Nazi-occupied Paris.

The video itself is a strange document, produced on the cheap, and suspect in exactly what it is trying to accomplish (it wants both to admonish and valorize). There's no analysis, just footage, which is all very interesting but not very educational. Fortunately, *Great Reichsters* comes complete

with a "companion booklet" with essay by *Frederic Spotts*, who wrote the informative 1996 book *Bayreuth: A History of the Wagner Festival*.

Spotts fills in all the blanks about the Nazi music-makers. It's perhaps a little known fact of musical history that Herr von Karajan joined the Nazi party in 1933. Did you know that *Karl Böhm* always gave the Nazi salute before conducting concerts in Germany, and that after the war he remained, according to Spotts, "unrepentant, even defiant" about his affiliation with the Reich, saying that "while other conductors took the easy course and fled, he stayed behind to suffer and be bombed with the other Germans"? Did you know that in 1939 Furtwangler wrote in his diary that "Germany will win the war because individuals cannot cope with freedom"?

Spotts reveals that while Furtwangler wasn't a Nazi, and that in fact he refused to purge the concert repertoire of works deemed "racially suspect" by Nazi honchos, he nevertheless was, says Spotts, a staunch anti-Semite who ignored the works of controversial composers like *Mahler, Schoenberg, and Berg*. ▼

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SCHEDULE

Folsom Street stages

Thanks mostly to the awesome booking efforts of *Fiction* bassist and cool-rock-dyke-about-town *Nancy Kravitz*, the Folsom Street Fair has consistently featured some of the Bay Area's best local bands. And this year is no exception, featuring such hometown heroes as *Tribe 8*, *Stone Fox*, and *Liar*, along with exciting up-and-comers like *Blue Period*, the *Kuntry Kunts*, and *Brown-Star*. And although no one ever really thinks of the Folsom Street Fair as an annual showcase for many of SF's queer musicians, for now, it's quite possibly the closest thing we've got!

7TH STREET STAGE

12 pm Sparrow's Point
12:30 Michael as Roy Orbison
12:45 Piston
1:15 The Bearatones
1:30 The Gretchen Phillips Experience
2 pm Charlie Angel
2:15 Blue Period
2:45 Gary Virginia
3 pm Earl Thomas
3:30 Andrews Sisters
3:45 Elvis Herselvis & Patsy Kline
4:15 Win Marcinak
4:30 Katherine Chase Band
5 pm DJ Cut-n-Paste
5:15 Veronika Klaus

12TH STREET STAGE

11 am Brown-Star
11:30 Fair Weather Jugglers
11:45 Tang
12:15 Dear Diva
12:30 Kuntry Kunts
1 pm Wenda Watch
1:15 Tribe 8
1:45 So Hip It Hurts
2 pm Tom, Dick & Harry
2:30 Cara Vida
2:45 Liar
3:15 Storm
3:30 Stone Fox with Heklina
4 pm Trannyshack
4:15 Super Booty
5 pm Dirty Little Showtunes
5:15 Gravity

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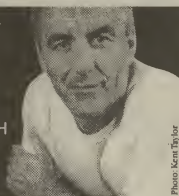


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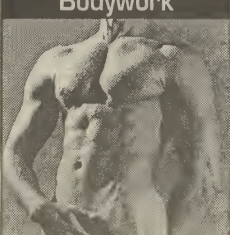
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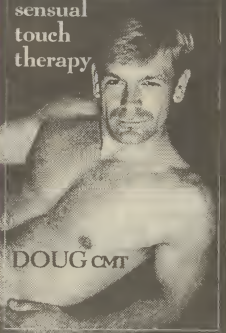
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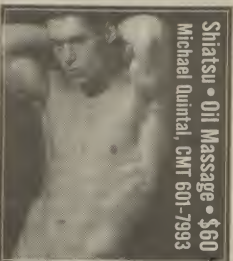
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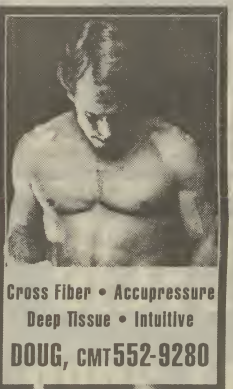
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Masculine Slim Built with Handsome
Boysish looks friendly, clean and
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\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817 E42

24hr•BD•FF•WS•34•57"•135#•7"cut
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Attractive, mature & experienced! 39
y/o, 5'8", 155#, hung, cut & fun.
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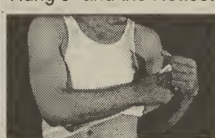
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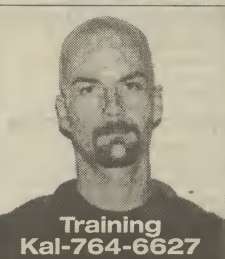
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22 yo
6' 1.85m
8" cut**ITALIAN**

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F/F, fantasy, most scenes. Beginner??
Have playspace, equipment and toys Scott
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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
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New in town from
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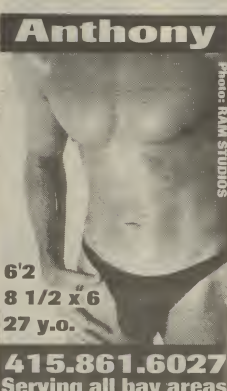
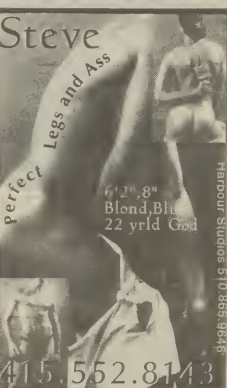
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Legs and Ass6'2", 8"
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5'11" 10 uncut

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College Tri-Athlete

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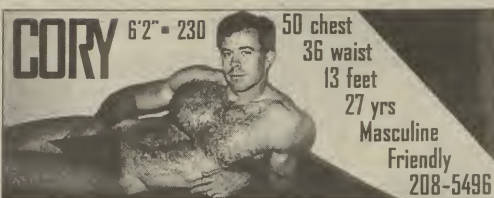
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Very Cute, Very Young
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male
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Come feel the real deal. Avail 24hr
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Ultimate touch by masculine boy
Out only 24 Hrs. Call Jeff 314-9586 E41

Beautiful Boy
5'5", blu-bl, bubble butt, vers.
Extremely nice. In/Out
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"Clean cut-crew cut"
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The expert-15yrs experience!
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Prolonged scenes-4hrs to 48 hours
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BUTCH MUSCLES

230 LB, 6 FT,
50 CH, 19 ARMS
LICK MY BOOTTS
Ph 415-931-3098 Pg 605-2433 E40

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10", 6 ft, 431-5923 E39

Hot Asian Page 708-0432 E42

27yo, 5'7", 140, Tom 412-7261
ASIAN MASTER E42

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5'11" 150' cute thick top
JEFF
338 4132

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TRIM, TONED, THICK, TOP, TAME
Thong-tan, smooth, cut, cute, 27, br/br,
discreet, affectionate, passionate.
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Call Chris @ 270-5175 leave msg.
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Sexy and charming 19yo would
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Very sexy, hndsm, 46"/c, 30"/w, no attd
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Out Pfrd 415-605-4690 Guaranteed E39

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I'm a 6'2", 220 lb, muscular jock.
22yo with a thick forever hard tool
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5'8", 145#, br/br, 24hr. 675-4761 Out E39

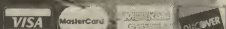
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MODELS/ESCORTS

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Looking
408-788-7508

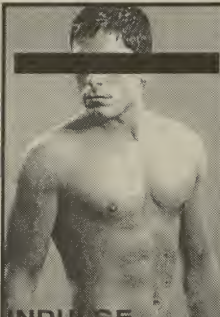
DENNIO



Very Handsome Italian
9"x6" • 27yo • 5'9"
415-790-1078 in/out



ANDRE 597-3613

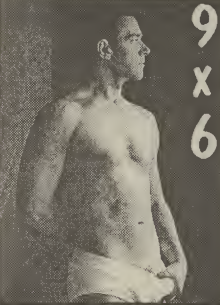


INDULGE YOURSELF!
IN/OUT CALLS
357.0705

CLARK
270-0919

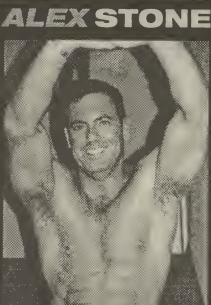


5'9"
160lb



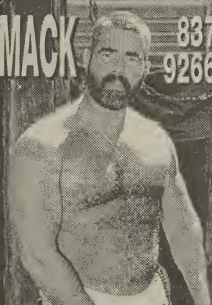

9
x
6
807-7787

ALEX STONE

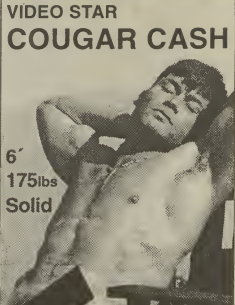


888.341.4154

MACK 837-9266

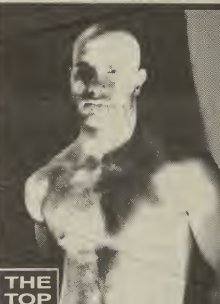



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GREGORY
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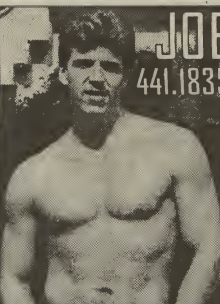
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Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the
telephone. If you have a
question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates
available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 4.50
All subsequent lines 3.00
CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

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☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

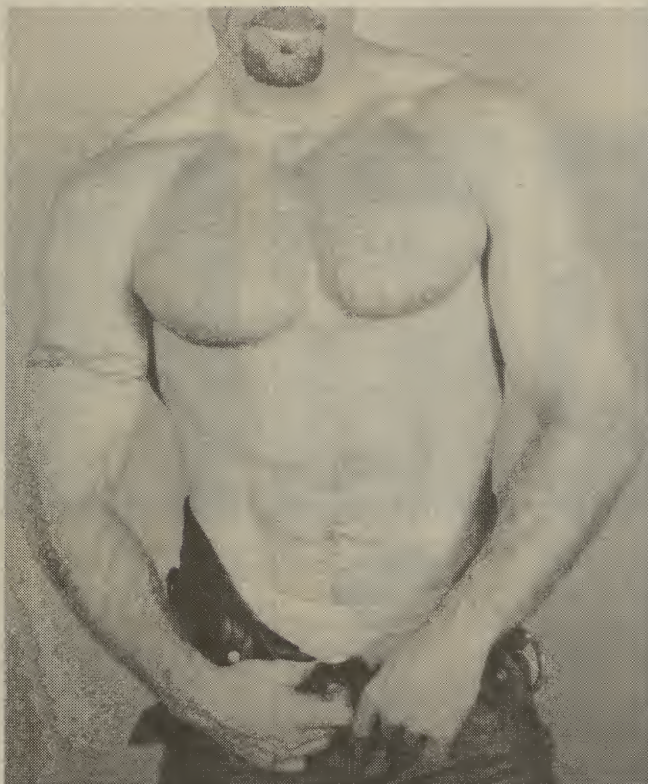
Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

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REPORTER
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San Francisco, CA
94103

OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144



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